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Medical-aid-in-dying law faces lawsuit

Disabled patients, doctor, others allege the state's legislation ends 'ethical obligation to do no harm'

By Jeremy Gorner
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A federal lawsuit filed Thursday challenges a new Illinois law set to go into effect in September that would allow doctors to prescribe medication to terminally ill people to end their own lives.

Two disabled patients, a doctor and various disability and patients' rights organizations allege in the lawsuit that the state's controversial End of Life Options Act "upends millennia of protections for Illinois patients in their relationships with their doctors by ending the ethical obligation to do no harm."

The suit names Democratic Gov. JB. Pritzker, the Illinois Department of Public Health and its director, Dr. Sameer Vohra, as defendants. It alleges the law violates federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, which protects people with disabilities from discrimination, and the Affordable Care Act, which is designed to help manage healthcare costs. The suit also alleges the new law violates the plaintiffs' equal protection rights under the 14th Amendment.

A similar lawsuit filed Thursday targets New York state officials, including Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul, as that state's medical-aid-in-dying law takes effect in August.

The Illinois suit contends the End of Life Options Act, or EOLA, changes the legal foundation of every doctor-patient relationship, eliminating patients' "historic legal right" to hold caregivers to a do-no-harm-obligation and replacing it with a standard permitting doctors to prescribe lethal drugs to help patients die by suicide.

"EOLA embarks on this reckless experiment with no guardrails and no adequate legal framework to prevent the erroneous taking of life," the suit alleges. "Without any such safeguards, or objective parameters for eligibility, there will be an inevitable evolution from EOLA's 'right to die' to a 'duty to die' for individuals whose disabilities are a costly burden or who lack the resources for extended medical care."

The lawsuit also claims that people with life-threatening disabilities, "as a discrete class," will be highly vulnerable to pressure from insurers, hospitals and doctors to consent to ending their lives prema-

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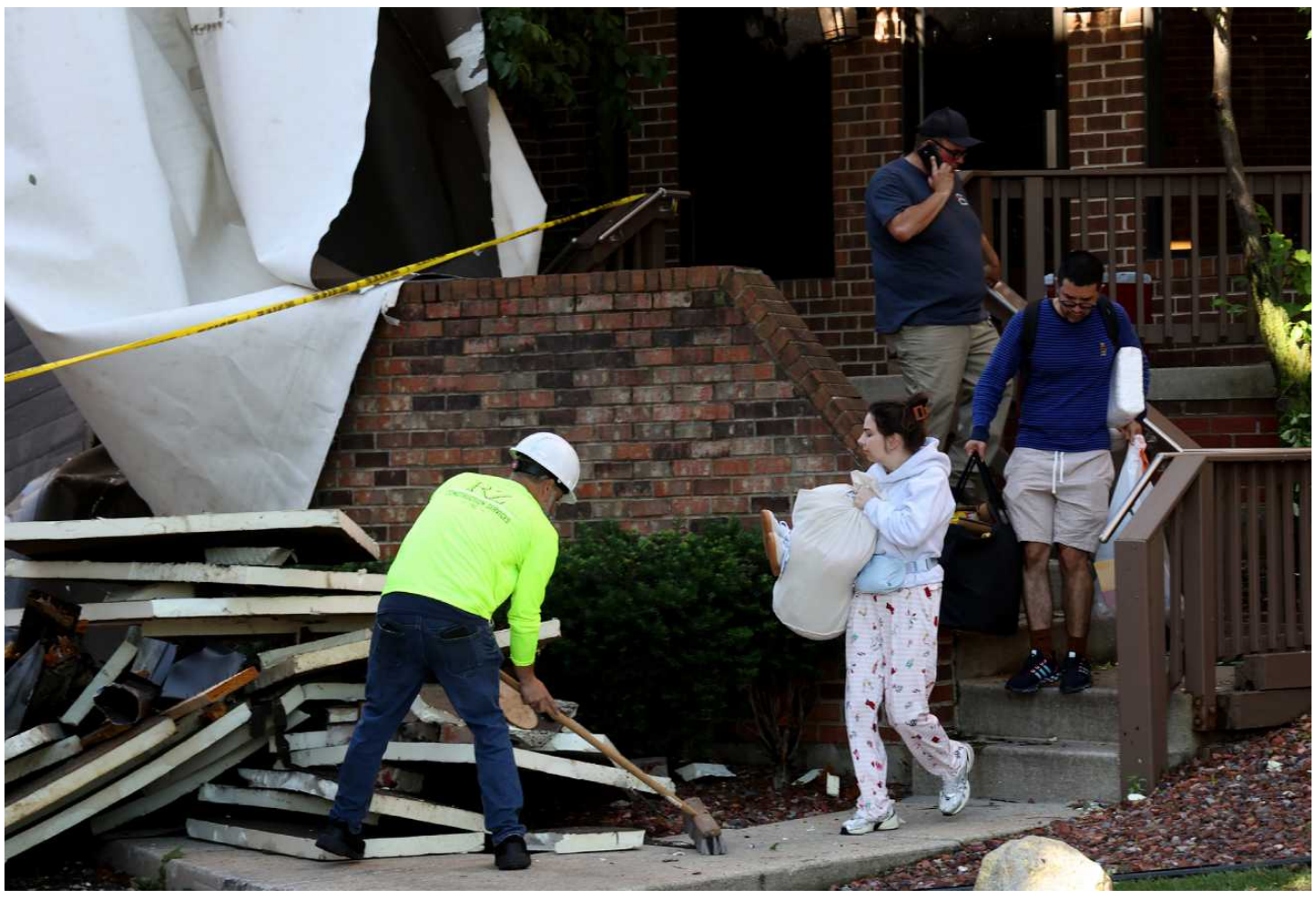

ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Storms displace residents

Edwin Rangel and Colleen Straight remove personal items Thursday as they walk past roofing debris following storms the previous day at an apartment building on Pershing Road and Ridgeland Avenue in Stickney. The married couple and their baby will stay with family in Indiana. Weather officials warned of more severe weather with the entire region under a tornado watch Thursday. **Page A9**

State moves to protect patients from abuse

Legislation tightens reporting requirements about misconduct

By Emily Hoerner and Lisa Schencker
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

State oversight failures exposed in a Tribune investigation drove a package of major changes to state law aimed at better protecting patients from sexual abuse or other inappropriate conduct by doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers.

State Rep. Kelly Cassidy, D-Chicago, who first proposed the legislation more than a year ago, called the final version of the bill, which the legislature approved late last session, "frankly revolutionary."

The bill creates an obligation for healthcare businesses and individual healthcare workers to promptly report to the state if they witness or hear about allegations of sexual or intimate conduct involving healthcare professionals and patients. The state would be able to discipline licensed workers ranging from doctors and nurses to dentists and massage therapists for failing to report such incidents.

The bill also expands on previous reporting requirements for hospitals and allows the state to fine them for failing to properly report incidents where healthcare workers engaged in sexual or intimate conduct with patients. That money would go into the Sexual Assault Services and Prevention Fund. "Reckless failure to report" such incidents would also put healthcare organizations' certificate to operate in jeopardy.

In addition, some healthcare workers — including doctors, midwives, nurses and physical therapists — could be disciplined if they conduct sensitive physical examinations alone after a patient requests that a third party be present, assuming the situation is not an emergency.

"Really, the teeth matter to me

See **PROTECT** on Page A5

Trump picks new chief of intelligence after revolt

Federal prosecutor in New York named after opposition to Pulte

By Collin Binkley, Larry Neumeister and Michael R. Sisak
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Thursday that he plans to nominate Jay Clayton, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York and a former Securities and Exchange Commission chairman, as director of national intelligence.

Trump announced the nomination on social media amid pressure from Congress to name a permanent replacement for Tulsi Gabbard, who resigned last month. Trump faced intense pushback over his decision to name Bill Pulte, head of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, as acting director. The job oversees the coordination of 18 intelligence agencies.

Later on Thursday, Trump said he still plans to put Pulte in the role "for a little while." Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office, Trump called Clayton an "incredible talent" and said, "nobody has better credentials."

The situation has led to a standoff in Congress after Democrats

See **CLAYTON** on Page A2

GOING 'PHONE-FREE'

Young people search for new ways to cut back on screen time

By Audrey Pachuta
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

There's something addictive about it. Sitting in bed late at night watching one 30-second clip after another. Bright, blue light illuminating the room.

Whipping out a camera the moment a restaurant server brings a meal or a favorite performer appears onstage. Succumbing to the urge to scroll Instagram the second conversation grows quiet or social awkwardness creeps in.

The alarm bells began to ring in recent Loyola University graduate Kamryn McPhaul's head when she realized a third of her waking life was spent on her cellphone.

She, like so many others, craved the "cheap hits of dopamine," the sense of mindless joy she received from watching a short video only to forget it moments later.

Earlier this year, she decided enough was enough.

Goodbye to Instagram and Snapchat; hello to sightseeing adventures, solo trips to the movies and hours spent at the Art Institute. The moment McPhaul installed a "permanent black-and-white filter" on her screen and deleted all her

Above: Kamryn McPhaul, 22, browses inside Women & Children First bookstore in Andersonville on May, 31. McPhaul has been limiting herself to an hour a day of phone usage since February and is spending more time exploring on solo trips or with friends. **JOSH BOLAND/TRIBUNE**

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INSIDE

President calls off next strikes on Iran

President Donald Trump said he has called off new military strikes on Iran, hours after threatening to escalate the war by seizing control of the country's oil industry. He has said many times recently that the countries are close to a deal. **Nation & World, Page B4**

King's connection with Bulls fans

How Stacey King — always "the life of the party" — breathed new life into Bulls fandom. **Sports**

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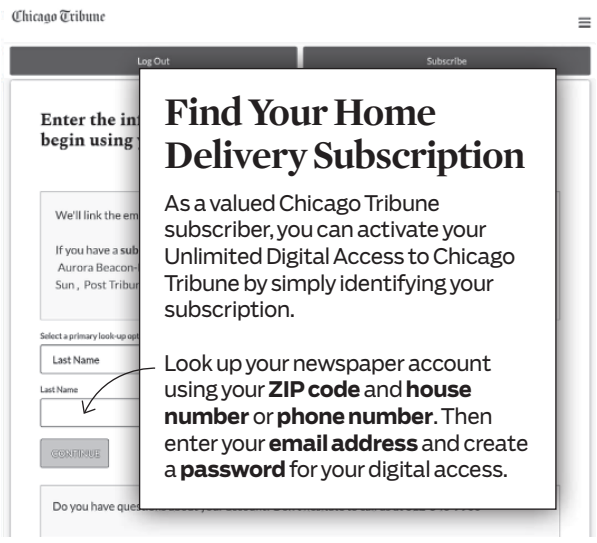
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Tribune books

"He Had It Coming: Four Murderous Women and the Reporter Who Immortalized Their Stories" "Chicago The Musical" played on Broadway for more than 9,600 performances since it premiered on Nov. 14, 1996, yet not many people know the characters of Roxie Hart, Velma Kelly and others are inspired by real women. Their stories were captured by Tribune reporters. This book includes original newspaper clippings, Watkins' stories and a new analysis.

"Dinner at Home" Cooking at home doesn't have to be difficult, but it should always be delicious. JeanMarie Brownson, culinary director for Rick Bayless' Frontera Foods, helped readers put inventive, yet simple, dishes on the table through her Dinner at Home column for the Tribune. Her book includes everything you need to create spectacular food any day of the week.

"Capone: A Photographic Portrait of America's Most Notorious Gangster." Using many never-before-published photographs and newspaper clippings from the Tribune's archives, this coffee-table book chronicles the rise and fall of Al Capone.

"Gangsters & Grifters: Classic Crime Photos From the Chicago Tribune." This collection of photographs taken in the early 1900s through the 1950s features infamous criminals, small-time bandits, smirking crooks, pickpockets, hoodlums and wiseguys at crime scenes.

"Ask Amy: Advice for Better Living" For more than a decade, Amy Dickinson was the Tribune's signature general advice columnist, helping readers with questions both personal and pressing. This book, which collects columns from 2011 to 2013, is a testament to her empathetic counsel and practical common-sense tips.

"Culture Worrier: Reflections on Race, Politics and Social Change." Clarence Page's newest book commemorates the 30th anniversary of his column's first appearance in the Tribune. It is the first such collection of the Pulitzer Prize winner's columns, covering topics such as politics, social issues, pop culture, race, family, new media and prominent figures, as well as his personal life.

"10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything." You may never need to know the human body contains a half-pound of salt, but that's just one of the obscure facts you'll find about sports, history, religion, politics, arts and culture, food and leisure, and science and technology in this collection of columns from Mark Jacob and Stephan Benzkofer.

"Life Skills: How To Do Almost Anything" How do you give a good wedding toast? How do you fix a clogged drain? How do you bowl without hurting anyone? Questions like these make up this engaging do-it-yourself guide.

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Former CHA director indicted for allegedly taking $421K in kickbacks

By Tess Kenny
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A former property director for the Chicago Housing Authority is facing federal charges for allegedly funneling millions of dollars' worth of work to the owner of a local construction company in exchange for $421,000 in kickbacks.

Ryan Ross — former CHA senior director of asset management — and Vanessa Rhodes have each been indicted on eight counts of honest services fraud, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois announced in a news release. Each fraud charge is punishable by up to 20 years in federal prison. The 22-page indictment was returned in federal court in Chicago on Tuesday, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Ross, 50, is accused of receiving kickbacks between May 2023 and September 2024 from 47-year-old Rhodes, the president of Bell's Better Buildings, a Chicago company that did business as Twenty Eleven Construction, per federal prosecutors.

In exchange for the kickbacks, Ross used his position as a top-ranking CHA director to fraudulently award more than $4.8 million in construction, renovation and other work to Twenty Eleven Construction and another company affiliated with Rhodes, federal prosecutors allege.

As part of Ross' CHA employment, he worked with property managers on completing unit-turn work, which entails construction, renovation and other work needed on a public housing unit to make it ready for a new tenant, the indictment states. Ross was also responsible for the oversight of CHA property managers, selected vendor companies for unit-turn work and the approval of invoices for completed work.

Ross was terminated in September 2024 over an inspector general investigation that found alleged financial and ethical misconduct among several top CHA officials. Ross was fired for breaking agency procedures, including one that cost CHA over $19,000.

Federal prosecutors allege that Ross and Rhodes concealed their fraud scheme by submitting false documents to CHA, including proposals, scopes of work and invoices. Ross proceeded to spend some of the kickback money to purchase a vehicle for himself and pay for repairs and renovations to his home.

"They hijacked a program meant to repair and preserve Chicago's already scarce public housing, diverting public funds to enrich themselves," CHA Inspector General Kathryn Richards said in a statement.

Machelle Jindra, special agent in charge with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Inspector General, said in a statement that Ross and Rhodes' alleged scheme "corrupted the fair and competitive contracting process and undermined the confidence in the integrity of HUD-funded programs."

Both Ross and Rhodes have been scheduled for an initial appearance and arraignment at 1 p.m. Friday at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse, court records show.

LAWSUIT
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turely.

The state Department of Public Health on Thursday declined to comment on the suit, citing the pending litigation. The governor's office did not respond to a request for comment.

Pritzker signed the End of Life Options Act into law last year, ending a long-running debate over whether terminally ill patients — those given up to six months to live by their doctors — should be allowed to ingest life-ending prescription medication.

Illinois joined at least 10 other states and Washington, D.C., in permitting medical aid in dying. Pritzker said in signing the law that it would help terminally ill patients "avoid unnecessary pain and suffering at the end of their lives."

Opponents, however, argue it is immoral to give someone the option to take their own life. Pope Leo XIV last year came out against the measure, acknowledging he spoke with Pritzker about it while the bill was being reviewed by the governor's office, and he said he was "very disappointed" to later learn Pritzker signed it into law.

Under the law, an eligible patient — at least 18 years old and an Illinois resident — "may orally request a prescription for medication" from their attending physician and it must be documented. The patient must also request the medication in writing to their physician after making the oral request. But the patient must also make a second oral request five days after the initial one.

Ebony Payne uses a stylus to send a text in her Woodlawn apartment on June 30, 2025.
EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The written request for the medication must also be witnessed by two people, "who attest that to the best of their knowledge" the patient is acting voluntarily and is mentally sound, according to the law, which also lists various limitations as to who can act as witnesses.

When the patient makes the second oral request, the attending physician must offer the patient an opportunity to rescind the request, the law says. An attending physician must also "provide sufficient information to a patient regarding all appropriate end-of-life care options," including comfort care, hospice care, palliative care and pain control, as well as the foreseeable risks and benefits of each.

Several of the organizations that joined in the Illinois lawsuit include the United Spinal Association, National Council on Independent Living and the Progress Center for Independent Living. Another one of the plaintiffs is Ebony Payne, a quadriplegic who is paralyzed from the neck down and has repeatedly been in serious life-threatening situations in hospitals, including within the last two weeks when she was in an emergency room and then the intensive care unit of Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Another plaintiff is Pam Heavens, who is also disabled. She was born with cerebral palsy and her support needs have increased with age, the lawsuit states. She now requires a motorized wheelchair, and any lapse in her current medical support, or even placement in a lower tier of medical care, would make Heavens likely to die well before six months — qualifying her as an eligible patient under the End of Life Options Act, according to the lawsuit.

Another plaintiff, Dr. Nooshig Luz Salvador, treats patients with disabilities, including those at the final stages of their lives.

"In her own experience and expert medical opinion, such individuals often upon receiving a devastating diagnosis have no adequate warning of the diagnosis and are in a state of shock," the lawsuit states. "They may also be under the care of surgeons who are inadequately trained to communicate end-of-life options that will ease suffering and protect a genuine quality of life for such patients."

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and some Republicans said they would refuse to renew foreign intelligence powers unless Trump pulled Pulte's nomination and named a permanent nominee.

"Few people anywhere in the Legal Community are respected at the level of Jay," Trump wrote. "I encourage the United States Senate to confirm Jay as soon as possible."

As the U.S. attorney in Manhattan, Clayton oversees the largest and most prestigious of the Justice Department's prosecution offices, with a vast portfolio ranging from terrorism and espionage cases to security fraud and public corruption.

He took over from interim U.S. attorney Danielle Sassoon, who resigned in February after refusing to carry out orders from the Justice Department to drop corruption charges against Mayor Eric Adams. The case was eventually dropped after prosecutors from Washington sent a request to a judge.

Clayton appeared Monday on CNBC's "Squawk Box," where he raised questions about the integrity of California's elections. Trump has claimed without evidence that the state's slow count in its recent primaries meant the vote was rigged.

"The American people are right to question it," Clayton said, adding that the delay in results increased the opportunity for fraud.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., said the Senate could move "fairly quickly" to confirm Clayton as director of national intelligence if the White House submits his paperwork soon.

U.S. Attorney Jay Clayton leaves a news conference on March 9 in New York City. **SETH WENIG/AP**

He praised Clayton after Trump said on social media that he would nominate him for the job, saying he has a "great reputation."

Democrats and some Republicans who have been delaying the renewal of a key surveillance law, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, had said they wouldn't support an extension of the law, which expires at midnight Friday, unless Trump withdrew Pulte's appointment.

Earlier Thursday, a House vote collapsed in bipartisan fashion, with 19 Republicans and nearly all Democrats rejecting a temporary extension, 198-218. The Senate tried to approve its versions later Thursday but also failed.

The impasse could soon result in limitations on what intelligence the U.S. government can collect abroad just as World Cup games begin in cities around the country and ahead of celebrations for the nation's 250th anniversary. While the provision has expired briefly before, this would be the first lengthy lapse, at a time when the U.S. and Iran are engaged in missile strikes that are testing a fragile ceasefire in the war.

Trump previously said Pulte would take over on June 19. It is unclear whether the Senate could move quickly enough to confirm Clayton before that date.

"I don't know what realistic is, but we're gonna probe the limits of it," Thune said.

Connecticut Rep. Jim Himes, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said he has "known and respected" Clayton for decades and that had he been tapped as DNI a week ago, "lots of pain might have been avoided."

"His intelligence, temperament and deep commitment to public service will make him a terrific DNI," Himes said.

Asked about Clayton's nomination, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said that "Pulte has to go."

"He cannot be in the DNI role," Schumer said. "It's too important."

Clayton navigated his way through a 14-month tenure in the Southern District of New York without clashing with the federal judges in the busiest court in the nation, unlike his counterparts in upstate New York and New Jersey. After his interim term expired after 120 days, the judges of the Southern District appointed him as U.S. attorney.

Clayton was sworn in as U.S. attorney in April 2025 on the same day three prosecutors resigned, saying they felt pressured to admit wrongdoing or regret about prosecuting the now-dismissed Adams corruption case.

Then, weeks later, the office had to withstand controversy over the Trump administration's firing of one of its most respected and successful prosecutors, Maurene Comey. She claims she was fired because Trump dislikes her father, former FBI Director James Comey.

Under Clayton, the Manhattan U.S. attorney's office facilitated the unsealing of thousands of pages of court records from the prosecutions of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell — documents made public as part of the Justice Department's release of records related to the late sex offender and his longtime confidant.

Clinton warns of 'revolution to turn the clock back'

By Rick Pearson and Dan Petrella
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Rainbow PUSH Coalition President and CEO Yusef Jackson talks with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at Rainbow PUSH Coalition headquarters as part of their national convention on Thursday. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

Hillary Clinton used an audience at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition's annual convention to lash out at the Trump administration Thursday, saying Democrats must combat a "revolution to turn the clock back," a revolution that she said is eroding the building blocks of civil and voting rights established decades ago.

Clinton, a former secretary of state who lost to Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election, also contended the Republican president in his current, second term has displayed "incoherence" and "unintelligent" foreign policy concepts, including launching a war in Iran that was "unmoored from reality."

Clinton, who was born in Chicago and grew up in Park Ridge and served as first lady and as a U.S. senator, appeared at Rainbow PUSH's South Side headquarters. It was the first Rainbow PUSH convention and her first visit since the February death and March funeral of the organization's founder, civil rights leader, the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Speaking to Jackson's son, Yusef, who took over as CEO of the organization in April, Clinton lauded the family's close relationship dating to former President Bill Clinton's days as Arkansas governor and said, "I don't think in the 1970s and the '80s or '90s either your dad or certainly Bill and I thought we would be facing a concerted effort to turn the clock back."

"We have to reconstitute movements that moved us forward, that made it possible to claim we were trying to get to that more perfect union," she said. "They were not led by political elected officials. They were led by clergy, they were led by business leaders, they were led by civic organizers, they were led by young people. So we don't need to have a bunch of elected officials leading this new movement. We need to have it be from the bottom up, the grassroots, coming back to get organized and move forward again."

The crowd cheers former first lady and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at Rainbow PUSH Coalition headquarters as part of their annual national convention on Thursday.

Clinton attacked Trump for "the damage that he has done to our institutions, to the rule of law, to our sense of unity as a nation, to our belief that e pluribus unum, out of many, one."

"He doesn't believe any of that and so part of what we've got to do is elect leaders who have the heart of a servant leader, who are understanding that they have to serve the people, and that by serving the people, they will help all of us find a way forward that is going to benefit the country," she said.

But Clinton also said Democrats "probably took too much for granted" in believing their gains on civil and societal rights had been solidified despite a constant threat from "leaders who actually catered to the worst of our nature, not the best."

"I'm not naive. I know that there are lots of interest groups who don't want us to make progress, who don't care about how many of our fellow citizens are suffering right now," she said. "That's why we have to beat them in elections with people who do care, and then those people who do care have to come together and develop smart strategies to actually make a difference."

Clinton said Trump has made a "mess" of U.S. foreign policy and said past presidents knew that engaging Iran in war would lead to that country's closing of the Straight of Hormuz and the resulting increase in supply chain costs to Americans.

"The idea that you could bully Iran, a theocracy that believes in its religious vision of what the Islamic Republic is supposed to be, is just unmoored from history," she said. "This is not a society that's going to be intimidated by Donald Trump."

"We've done a lot of damage to ourselves," she added. "We have undermined the trust that our allies need to have in us. We have given a lot of comfort to our adversaries because they see us flailing around. We have just launched a war that we're losing. And it is so incredibly sad to me that this effort by the current president against Iran is unmoored from reality."

Following Clinton's discussion with Jackson, Gov. JB Pritzker closed out the second day of the conference with a roughly 15-minute address that was part tribute to the Rev. Jackson and part campaign stump speech, peppered with familiar criticisms of Trump and Republicans in Washington.

"I'm grateful to everyone here who has chosen hope over fear, even in these most challenging days for our republic," Pritzker said. "It feels like reading the news these days is — well, it takes an act of courage. The White House and Congress have fallen into the hands of grifters of false pride, of purveyors of bigotry and hatred, spelunkers for misery, and their aim is to enrich and aggrandize themselves, and to do it at the expense of the powerless and the most vulnerable."

Tracing a line connecting federal cuts to the social safety net with Republican-led efforts to roll back protections for voting rights and minority representation, Pritzker said, "Blood has been shed, lives have been lost to secure the right to vote for representatives who share our lived experience, and we are now witnessing the culmination of a decades-long plot to dismantle that right, to disenfranchise Black voters and constrain Black power."

Pritzker also touted that Illinois has a chance in November "to become the first state ever to send our, not first, but second black woman to the United States Senate, Juliana Stratton," his two-term lieutenant governor, whose Democratic primary campaign he supported with $10 million directed through an outside super political action committee.

RTA chair sends veiled warning shot to Johnson over CTA leadership

By Talia Soglin
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Regional Transportation Authority Chairman Kirk Dillard speaks during an RTA board meeting in Chicago's Loop on June, 1. **JOSH BOLAND/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Regional Transportation Authority board Chair Kirk Dillard made it clear in a letter sent to transit officials this week that any changes to executive leadership at the CTA now need the OK of Illinois' brand-new transit governing body.

It's not clear if Chicago's mayor, who last month directed the CTA's board of directors to "move expeditiously to finalize the selection" of a permanent president, is on board.

Dillard's note, sent Monday to the board chairs of the region's three major transit agencies, lays out his expectations for the CTA, Metra and Pace as the Chicago region begins a massive overhaul of its public transportation systems.

Landmark legislation that restructures the governing bodies of the CTA, Metra and Pace — and provides more than $1 billion in annual funding for public transit — took effect last week. The law creates the Northern Illinois Transit Authority, which lawmakers intend to be a more powerful version of the RTA.

Among other changes, the new law dilutes some of the influence the mayor of Chicago has over the executive appointment process at the CTA, which has been led for more than a year by an acting president, Nora Leerhsen.

Dillard's letter contains what appears to be a veiled warning shot at Mayor Brandon Johnson: No appointing a permanent CTA leader without the buy-in of the new NITA governing body.

"Any Executive Director appointments or replacements now require advice and consent of the NITA board that is yet to be seated. Further, the NITA Act requires an executive search process to be followed," Dillard said in his letter.

Mayoral spokesperson Allison Novelo did not directly answer a question about whether Johnson agreed with Dillard's note on the executive appointment process.

"As the region transitions to the governance structure established under the Northern Illinois Transit Authority (NITA) Act, the existing governance framework of the service boards remain in place," she said in a statement.

"We welcome the opportunity to strengthen coordination across the region's transit agencies in support of a more connected, reliable, and rider-focused transit system for riders across Chicago and the region," Novelo said.

Novelo did not confirm or deny whether the mayor believed appointment of a CTA president would now need approval from NITA.

The transit legislation requires the new NITA board to give its "advice and consent" for the appointment of any new CTA leader. The law also requires the NITA board chair and executive director to be included in any search process for an executive.

Though the law took effect last week, the transit agencies are in a bit of limbo until Sept. 1, when the terms of board members for all four transit agencies expire and new members are expected to be seated. The RTA is operating under its current name until Sept. 1.

"During this time of transition before new members are seated at the four agencies, the executive leadership will continue to operate in an interim capacity," wrote Dillard, whose board term is also set to expire Sept. 1.

In a phone call Wednesday, Dillard said he wrote the letter to keep an open line of communication with his fellow board chairmen and to ensure a "smooth, successful transition" to the new NITA governance structure.

Dillard also said he wanted to discourage any "rash" decisions related to major hiring choices, including both executive and other senior leadership.

The mayor, who has allowed the CTA to be led on an interim basis for more than a year, made a last-minute push for a permanent appointment weeks before the transit law took effect.

On May 7, Johnson wrote a letter to CTA board Chair Lester Barclay, directing the transit board to finalize the selection of a candidate.

"This should include prompt commencement of interviews with finalists, including the Acting President, before submitting the Board's recommended candidate to my office for final consideration," Johnson wrote.

Johnson cited the impending NITA deadline in his letter, saying it was "vital" for the CTA to "enter this new era with dedicated, permanent leadership."

The CTA's board has thus far not taken the mayor up on his ask, at least publicly.

The board did not publicly discuss any executive search at either its May or June board meetings, although members did meet in relatively lengthy closed sessions at both meetings. During the June meeting Wednesday, board members met in closed session for over an hour.

The mayor has appointed three of the board's seven current members.

Even under the current paradigm, the mayor has struggled to exercise control over the executive appointment process at the CTA.

Barclay, who was appointed by former Mayor Lori Lightfoot, also did not directly answer a question about whether he agreed with Dillard's note.

"The NITA law provides for the Chicago Transit Board to exercise its governance responsibilities to the CTA," Barclay said in a statement.

"As Chair of this sitting board, I am committed to working collaboratively with our regional partners as the new NITA structure is established during the transition period, while also upholding my governance responsibilities to the CTA to ensure our agency is providing safe, reliable and accessible service to our riders."

Dillard's Monday note was largely focused on guidelines for how the transit agencies should operate during the transition process.

For instance, he directed transit agencies to notify the RTA if they intend to hire for certain high-level positions. They should cooperate with a new law enforcement task force to be led by the Cook County sheriff's office, he wrote. And they should notify the RTA of any competitive grant applications before they apply.

Dillard also told the agencies they should coordinate any changes in service to help passengers transfer between transit systems, such as between a Metra train and a Pace bus.

In a statement, Metra's board chair, Joseph McMahon, said the commuter rail agency "look(s) forward to working with and fully cooperating with RTA/NITA throughout this transition period to deliver what the public expects."

NOTICE OF PENDING CLASS ACTION

If your vehicle was towed on or after June 11, 2017 under the City of Chicago's abandoned vehicle ordinance and the vehicle lacked current registration at the time of the tow, a class action lawsuit may affect your rights.

The lawsuit is entitled *Santiago v. City of Chicago*, Case No. 1:22-cv-5827 and is pending in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. The Court preliminarily approved a settlement of the lawsuit. Under the settlement, the City of Chicago will create a fund of $1,425,000 for the benefit of the Class. Class Members who submit a claim by August 12, 2026, are eligible for a settlement payment of up to $1,250. If you believe you are a Class Member and wish to submit a claim, please contact the Settlement Administrator at Info@ChicagoTowLawsuit.com or 1-888-253-9508 to determine if you are eligible and, if so, for instructions on how to submit a claim. If you do not want to be bound by the results of this lawsuit, you must mail a request for exclusion, postmarked by August 5, 2026, to *Santiago v. City of Chicago* Settlement Administrator, P.O. Box 301132, Los Angeles, CA 90030-1132. Your request for exclusion must include your name, address, telephone number, the case name and number, and a statement that you wish to be excluded from the case. Though the Court has appointed Class Counsel, you may hire your own lawyer, at your own expense, to represent you, but you do not need to do so. If you wish to object to the settlement or Class Counsel's requested attorneys' fees or the requested incentive awards for the Plaintiffs, you must submit the objection with the Court by August 5, 2026. To learn more about the settlement, you can visit www.ChicagoTowLawsuit.com or contact Class Counsel: Jacie C. Zolna of Zolna Swetland, LLC, jzolna@zolnaswetland.com, 30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2300, Chicago, Illinois 60602, (312) 724-8474.

PHONE

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social media apps, she felt something shift. She doesn't plan on going back.

While McPhaul's mission to curb her screen time has been an individual endeavor, others are increasingly seeking out social spaces to join like-minded people hoping to unplug. The number of phone-free experiences grew by 567% globally in 2024 and 2025, according to Eventbrite, a platform where organizers can advertise events.

In Chicago, this trend has taken various forms: everything from creative spaces relegating devices to cotton bags and locked boxes to phone-free raves moshing into the morning's wee hours.

Some of these events are planned and attended by young adults, most of whom hardly remember a world before instantaneous digital communication. In many cases, phone-free parties emerge in the form of novelty pop-ups, advertised as a chance to escape the pressures of an ever-demanding online universe.

"Some people want to let loose and be free and they don't want to be filmed while they're doing that," said 29-year-old Samantha Boehlen, an event producer who helped plan multiple phone-free dance parties around the city.

Felipe Roriz and Lindsey Anderson chat while attending a "speed friending" event at Kibbitznest called "Skip the Small Talk." Phones are discouraged at Kibbitznest. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

D'Jhanir Harris Smith, 22, of Hyde Park, walks with his partner, Kamryn McPhaul, 22, of Rogers Park, along North Clark Street in Andersonville on May, 31. "We are in Chicago where it's such a fun city to be young in, explore things and where so much social infrastructure is built." McPhaul said. McPhaul has been limiting her phone usage to an hour a day and is spending more time exploring on solo trips or with friends. **JOSH BOLAND/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

'HOW ALL OF OUR PARENTS HUNG OUT'

After acquiring her first iPhone at 13, Olivia Gork spent most of her young life wondering what a party free of digital disruption would look like.

She dreamed of dance floors packed with crowds who let music move through them. Bars where people entered as strangers and left as friends. But the more she went out, the more she realized phones inherently stood in the way of the experience she longed to have.

"I was ending the night just being like: Where were we?" Gork said. "Were we just capturing the moments or were we living them?"

Unbeknownst to her, Gork's vision was one she shared with event producer Chinaecherem Nwaubani, whom she met at North Coast Music Festival in 2024. Now business partners, the pair founded an agency, Saturnalia, to plan "otherworldly phone free(dom) gatherings."

Back in December, they hosted their first and only party to date at Fulton Street Collective, a West Town art gallery and event space. The event, with bright colorful fabrics draped from the ceiling, drew a crowd of more than 100 people, Nwaubani said.

Some came with friends and others came alone, but all followed the night's one rule: Phones must be kept in a locked box by the entrance.

"We debated putting them in little pouches, but something for me is that I just hate being encumbered and I was just like, what is a way that everyone can be as unencumbered as possible?" Gork, now 23, said. "I think the phone just needs to be completely locked up."

The zero-tolerance phone policy brought people together in ways even Gork and Nwaubani couldn't have predicted. They were particularly struck by a moment when a group gathered to play chess with a security guard, and the fact that one attendee got so caught up in being screen-free, she forgot her phone at the venue when she departed for the night.

"This is how all of our parents hung out," Nwaubani said. "There was a time not that long ago where this was just normal."

Boehlen, the 29-year-old event producer whose work ranges from creative collage clubs to nightlife, said she wishes she had been "more stringent" about phone usage when she helped plan a January dance party in Wicker Park.

Over the years, she has advertised many of her events as being "phone-free," but unlike the owners of Saturnalia, she never enforced the rule as anything more than a friendly suggestion.

Recently, she said, she attended a few events that weren't marketed as screen-free, but ended up operating that way once she arrived. She recalled a concert's policy of storing phones in automatically sealed bags as something that could be a good idea for her future functions.

"I think people can use their phone as a crutch," Boehlen said. "It's very easy to look down at your phone and just scroll or answer a text message, rather than sitting in that uncomfortability."

PHONE-FREE CREATIVE SPACES

For some, the notion of unplugging isn't a new idea. With its eclectic collection of vinyl records and board games, Kibbitznest, a Wi-Fi-free book bar in Lincoln Park, has been capturing the fancies of those seeking a digital detox for nearly a decade.

While phones are technically permitted inside, those visiting find themselves hard-pressed to spot anyone choosing to use them. Instead, groups gather on comfortable furniture and chat while sipping cocktails and dealing playing cards. The dark interior features walls covered with books of every genre, encouraging those who enter to keep their laptop tucked away for the sake of the written word.

A sign at the front door at Kibbitznest in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood on May 13, where a "speed friending" event called "Skip the Small Talk." **CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE**

One weeknight in May, around 30 people gathered for an event called "Skip the Small Talk" in Kibbitznest's back room. As the name suggests, the night was centered around facilitating deep conversations between strangers, a task much easier when phone usage is kept to a minimum, event organizers said.

"Wouldn't it be nice if people just talked to people?" Viviana Barajas, the 33-year-old emcee, asked the crowd at the top of the event.

Over two hours, attendees shuffled from partner to partner, engaging in 10-minute conversations centered around card-prompted topics like "What are some of your biggest hopes for your personal future?" and "What are some things you loved about yourself as a child?"

Though attendee Lindsey Lucenta doesn't consider herself addicted to her phone, she said she believes "our relationship with phones as a society has oriented people away from engaging genuinely." She appreciated the opportunity to step into a space like the small talk event because it allowed those around her to be more "authentically themselves."

Jessa Fuller, an event curator and co-founder of experiential marketing agency Little Council, sought to cultivate a similar sense of belonging when her team hosted a phone-free pop-up event on a Saturday morning in River North last month.

The event, called Fulfillment Center, was geared toward people of all ages who were encouraged to come, put their phone in a cotton bag and engage with one of the many activities centered around reading, writing, making and playing at a long, communal table.

"Right now, when you think of a fulfillment center, you think of a large, giant, warehouse-y building built to get us things we order online super fast," Fuller said. "So we said: 'What would it look like if … we took up space with one that was more focused on personal fulfillment?'"

Fuller's team hosted the pop-up over two days. For her, the most striking part of the weekend was seeing people come to the Fulfillment Center alone and leave with plans to reconnect with the people they met at her event.

STUDENTS, TEACHERS ADAPT IN A DIGITAL WORLD

For some, the conversation around limiting screen time has extended beyond social circles and into professional or academic ones.

This spring, Olivia Stewart Lester, a Loyola professor who typically teaches classes on the New Testament and early Christianity, proposed and taught a new class that investigated the intersection of religion and technology.

Eighteen students joined her for her semester-long passion project, together exploring topics such as artificial intelligence and online religious communities, as well as participating in a month-long digital fast coinciding with the start of Lent and Ramadan.

"They were surprisingly enthusiastic," Stewart Lester said, adding she was unsure of how students would respond to a professor mandating a behavioral change.

In assigned reflection papers, students described how the fast gave them the chance to take up new hobbies, she said. Given the choice of how to implement the assignment in their lives, some students opted to eliminate certain apps like TikTok, while others chose not to use their devices on public transportation in order to be more aware of their surroundings.

"(They found) once they got through the kind of rocky adjustment period of getting used to detaching from those devices, that their mental health improved," she said. "That they were sleeping better and forming more connections with other people that felt more authentic to them."

At the University of Illinois Chicago, 20-year-old engineering student Nawar Masood sometimes employs the help of an app called FocusFlight, which allows her to lock her phone for the typical duration of any flight. Sometimes she chooses to turn off her phone for the two-hour flight path from Chicago to Atlanta, or if she really needs to focus, she'll opt for a longer hypothetical flight, such as one to San Francisco.

Even though she tries to limit her phone usage, Masood said her screen time can spike as high as 11 hours per day during the school year.

"A friend sent me a statistic that said we look at our phones over 200 times per day," Masood said. "I don't know if that's an exaggeration or not, but I just got super overwhelmed by that."

Now, she said, she and her friends place their phones in the center of the table when they're hanging out. Just before going to bed each night, she reserves an hour for reading or drawing to help her wind down without her phone nearby.

Back at Loyola, Stewart Lester said she has witnessed many students struggle to keep their screen time down in a world where both academics and social spheres increasingly demand an online presence. In her own classes, she restricts technology use to lecture-based notetaking, instructing her students to put everything away for activities and discussion.

McPhaul, the recent Loyola graduate who did not take Stewart Lester's class but has been working independently to cut her screen time, said the past few months have been a blessing as she's learned to "hang out with herself" and engage meaningfully with her friends in a way she hasn't been able to before.

At 22, she recognizes that leaving social media behind all together probably isn't feasible for a young person hoping to maintain a social life in this day and age. And so, while McPhaul much prefers catching up with friends face-to-face, she said she reluctantly checks social media on her computer sometimes to ensure she doesn't miss anything too important.

She equates this strategy to what she called "AOL era," meaning she tries to limit her internet use to when she's at home, just as her mother would have done in the '90s.

"Our phones are programmed to be like a slot machine in our pockets," she said. "Before I had never thought about that, but it's just so true."

Judge detains Chicago man accused of strangling estranged wife to death

By Audrey Pachuta
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A judge on Wednesday detained a man accused of strangling his estranged wife to death inside her apartment last fall.

Brandon Jones, 37, is charged with one count of first-degree murder and issuance of a warrant after his wife, Carolyn Jones — from whom he was separated — was found dead the day before Thanksgiving in her Greater Grand Crossing home. He was arrested in Indiana on Monday.

Around 6 a.m. on November 26, Carolyn Jones was transported to the hospital by Brandon Jones and her two sons after they found her "lifeless" in her bedroom, state's attorneys said. The previous day, Brandon Jones had called one of the sons upset by the sight of his estranged wife with another man outside their home. She had informed him she wanted a divorce months beforehand and told him she had been seeing someone else via text.

Video surveillance footage showed Brandon Jones entering and exiting the home multiple times within the time frame that Carolyn Jones was killed. Witnesses reported seeing Brandon Jones with a scratch on his face early in the morning on November 26, and he told one of them he had "gotten into an argument" with her overnight, state's attorneys said.

According to state's attorneys, the two sons had smelled a gas leak throughout the course of the night their mother was killed. As they were investigating the cause of the leak, they heard Brandon Jones repeating the word "Yo" inside their mother's bedroom. That's when they went inside the bedroom and saw their mother was unresponsive.

Brandon Jones told the two men, who are both in their 20s, that an ambulance would not be fast enough and they needed to take their mother to the hospital themselves. When they arrived, doctors made a preliminary finding that she died from cardiac arrest. Brandon Jones left the hospital after she was pronounced dead.

On November 27, an autopsy was conducted and the medical examiner ruled the cause of her death to be strangulation, making notes of marks on her neck, petechia to her eyes and the fact that she had been bleeding from her nostrils.

An analysis conducted by Illinois State Police Crime Lab revealed a considerable amount of the DNA found behind Carolyn Jones' fingernails belonged to Brandon Jones. Detectives executed search warrants on both of their cell phones and found that the last text Carolyn Jones received was a text from her estranged husband that said "I'm sorry about the fight we had when you got home, it's just hard to know my wife is leaving." She never opened the text.

Prior to his most recent arrest, Brandon Jones was arrested for domestic battery after being accused of pushing his then-girlfriend into a parked car. The matter was later dismissed. According to state's attorneys, in 2011 a woman reported to police two instances in which Jones had punched her in the face and threatened to kill her, but she chose not to proceed with the matter. Brandon Jones is scheduled to next appear in court on July 1.

Cook County settles with family of man who hanged himself in jail cell

By A.D. Quig
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The Cook County Board on Thursday approved a $4.5 million settlement to the family of a man who hanged himself while in custody at the Cook County Jail.

Michael O'Connor's family sued under the state's Wrongful Death Act, alleging the Cook County sheriff's office fell short in monitoring O'Connor, who had a history of mental illness and was a well-known suicide risk when he died at the Southwest Side facility on Christmas Day in 2023.

His death was "entirely preventable," one of O'Connor's attorneys, Michael Gallagher, told the Tribune. "The safeguards were in place, the warnings were clear."

The settlement was twice as much as the county has ever paid for an in-custody suicide for a pretrial detainee, Gallagher said.

"We disagree with the State's Attorney's Office's decision to settle this case and were looking forward to a full hearing on the matter at trial," sheriff's office spokesperson Matt Walberg said in a statement.

In a statement, the state's attorney's office defended its decision. "As Cook County's legal counsel, the CCSAO carefully reviewed the lawsuit and provided its recommendation to the Board based on what it determined to be the most responsible legal and financial course of action for the residents of Cook County," spokesperson Elyssa Cherney said.

O'Connor's was one of 18 deaths in custody at the jail that year, the highest mortality rate in two decades. Many were drug overdoses.

He was in jail awaiting trial on multiple felonies, including threatening a Chicago police officer and sending her explicit and threatening pictures and videos. He received two more charges in custody for battery of correctional staff. A judge ordered he undergo psychiatric examination, which was scheduled for the month after he died.

O'Connor had been arrested and jailed at least three times between 2012 and 2023, according to court records, and suffered from paranoid delusions, auditory hallucinations and had threatened to commit suicide multiple times. Arrested in July 2023 and considered "uncooperative," he was assigned to one of the sheriff's psychiatric special care units but was later assigned to general population, where he "began to severely deteriorate mentally," according to the suit filed by his family.

An October evaluation noted O'Connor mentioned feeling homicidal and suicidal, and tried to tie a sheet around his neck. He later exhibited "bizarre behaviors" and went on to refuse psychotropic medication, according to the suit.

An Injustice Watch investigation found many of the 2023 deaths involved lapses in supervision. In O'Connor's case, the suit alleges the office failed to "maintain adequate staffing levels to ensure that safety (well-being) checks would be performed for those detainees with obvious psychiatric illness," and that correctional officers were "cross-watching" multiple living units from the control center of one of the units. Call-offs are common on holidays, the suit noted.

Jail policy calls for cells to be checked every 30 minutes.

Sheriff Tom Dart's office has previously told the County Board it had instituted better health screenings, boosted access to mental health programs and expanded its live-video monitoring to better mitigate deaths at the jail. It also worked to curb drugs being smuggled into the jail.

Gallagher led the Torts and Civil Rights Section at the Cook County state's attorney's office from 2012 to 2015. At that time, the sheriff's office "had made significant strides in staffing and policies which allowed them to get out from under" a federal consent decree related to conditions at the jail, he said. "I don't know what happened over the last several years, but the number of deaths (in 2023) are more than alarming," given the drop in the jail's population in recent years.

The county has so far approved just over $34 million in settlements this fiscal year, according to Finance Committee records.

Commissioners also approved a $1.1 million settlement Thursday with a sheriff's office employee who brought his discrimination case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The case centered on whether Dart's office discriminated against that employee, John Nawara, under the Americans with Disabilities Act — even though Nawara never said or established he had an actual or perceived disability.

The case dates back to 2016 when Nawara, a correctional officer in the sheriff's office, was put on paid leave following fights with co-workers. He was ordered to take a fitness for duty exam and asked to turn over his medical records. Nawara refused and was switched to unpaid leave.

He sued, alleging the office violated the ADA and that the mandate for a medical exam was unnecessary and discriminatory. He requested back pay for the time he was on unpaid leave. The county fought it, arguing the medical exam requirement wasn't ordered because of an actual or perceived disability.

"If allowed to stand, this decision would have an unfortunate and potentially dangerous impact" by deterring employers from asking employees to take things like fitness exams or anger management programs necessary to work in a job, the county argued.

The 7th Circuit ruled for Nawara, arguing the exam was improper and that the county should pay him back for his time spent on unpaid leave. The county petitioned the Supreme Court, which declined to hear the case and left the Circuit Court ruling in place.

PROTECT

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the most," Cassidy told the Tribune in an interview. "... There are consequences."

Gov. JB Pritzker plans to sign the bill, according to a spokesperson for his office.

If the bill becomes law, the state would require employers to notify all healthcare workers through training or other means of their reporting responsibilities and how to report patient sexual abuse to the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, which is in charge of licensing and disciplining a wide array of healthcare professionals.

Although hospitals were already required to report allegations of patient abuse to the Illinois Department of Public Health, the bill sets out guidelines for hospitals' internal investigations, including who is qualified to conduct them, what information should be sought and considered in determining whether an allegation is substantiated, and what information must be logged and submitted to the department, even if the hospital determines an allegation is unfounded.

The Tribune's 2024 investigation exposed how Illinois healthcare systems failed to protect patients from abuse and how state government failed to hold them accountable. Reporters identified instances in which well-known health systems allowed healthcare workers accused of sexually abusing patients to continue providing care. In some cases, workers were not removed from patient care until additional patients came forward alleging similar abuse.

In one particularly troubling case, Chicago-area Endeavor Health continued to allow obstetrician and gynecologist Fabio Ortega access to patients despite receiving complaints. The doctor continued practicing even after the hospital system learned he was under criminal investigation following allegations of sexual abuse from a patient. The health system has since committed more than $450 million to settling patients' claims that an unspecified former doctor sexually abused them, according to the system's financial statements. Endeavor has settled more than 75 lawsuits brought by Ortega's former patients, the Tribune reported last year.

Ortega

The new bill identifies actions that qualify as sexual or intimate conduct, including engaging in seductive or sexually suggestive behaviors, neglecting draping practices that respect patient privacy, requesting details of a patient's sexual likes or dislikes, and examining or touching a patient's mucosal areas without wearing gloves.

Some women who filed lawsuits against Ortega reported they had been confused about whether demeaning or uncomfortable actions the doctor engaged in during exams was within the bounds of necessary medical behavior.

Attorney Tamara Holder, who, along with co-counsels Johanna Raimond and Stephan Blandin, represented most of the women who sued Ortega and Endeavor, said she likes that the new bill requires healthcare workers to report certain types of "conduct" rather than "misconduct."

She said she thinks that will make it more likely that healthcare workers will report what they see and hear.

"It doesn't require the holder of the information to define in their own mind what misconduct is," Holder said.

She said she also appreciates that the bill gives hospitals 48 hours to conduct an internal review before they must report to the state health department and that hospitals can be fined for failing to follow the new rules. Under the bill, hospitals would have to report allegations to the state health department if their internal review finds that reasonable cause exists to support the allegations or if further investigation is needed.

The Illinois Health and Hospital Association felt at first that the bill, as introduced, "failed to address the law's lack of a reasonable timeframe to undergo an appropriate investigation of alleged abuse" but ultimately supported the legislation after working on it with lawmakers and state agencies, spokesperson Paris Ervin said in a statement.

Ervin said the bill now "underscores the commitment by our membership to patient safety and ethical practices, while providing significant improvements to the current framework for compliance with the law's requirements."

Three months after the Tribune published its investigation, lawmakers passed legislation that requires hospitals to report sexual misconduct incidents that occur at affiliated doctors' offices to the Illinois Department of Public Health, not just those inside the hospital's walls. Cassidy, who also sponsored that bill, said the measure directly addressed Ortega's situation but more work needed to be done.

The Tribune's reporting revealed that, in one instance, a medical business did not look any further into patient abuse allegations after one of its employees resigned following an incident that resulted in battery and public indecency convictions. In another case, a nurse accused several times of patient abuse was able to secure a new job twice, with a clean nursing license, despite being fired from prior positions for his conduct. The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation did not file a complaint against the nurse until more than two years after he was first fired over his behavior.

The new bill requires healthcare organizations — including private businesses like doctors' offices — to notify the department promptly if a healthcare worker resigns, is terminated or suspended or if their privileges are materially changed because of allegations concerning intimate or sexual conduct with patients.

The bill also allows for communication between the state's health department and IDFPR involving patient abuse allegations, even those a hospital determines are unfounded. Hospitals must keep a log of allegations and make them available twice annually to the state's health department, which can share them with IDFPR upon request.

"The unfounded reports that wouldn't necessarily make it have to be logged, have to be examined, have to be searched for patterns," Cassidy said. "Having that piece in there is huge."

A spokesperson for IDFPR said in a statement that the agency was grateful legislators passed the measure and noted that the department relies on complaints from the public to take action.

"Too often our agency does not receive a complaint, and instead only learns about these horrible situations when an allegation or arrest is publicized in the news or on social media," the statement said, adding later: "With this early reporting, IDFPR can open an investigation soon after the conduct occurred, suspend or otherwise discipline the health professional's license and prevent the health professional from continuing to see and harm patients."

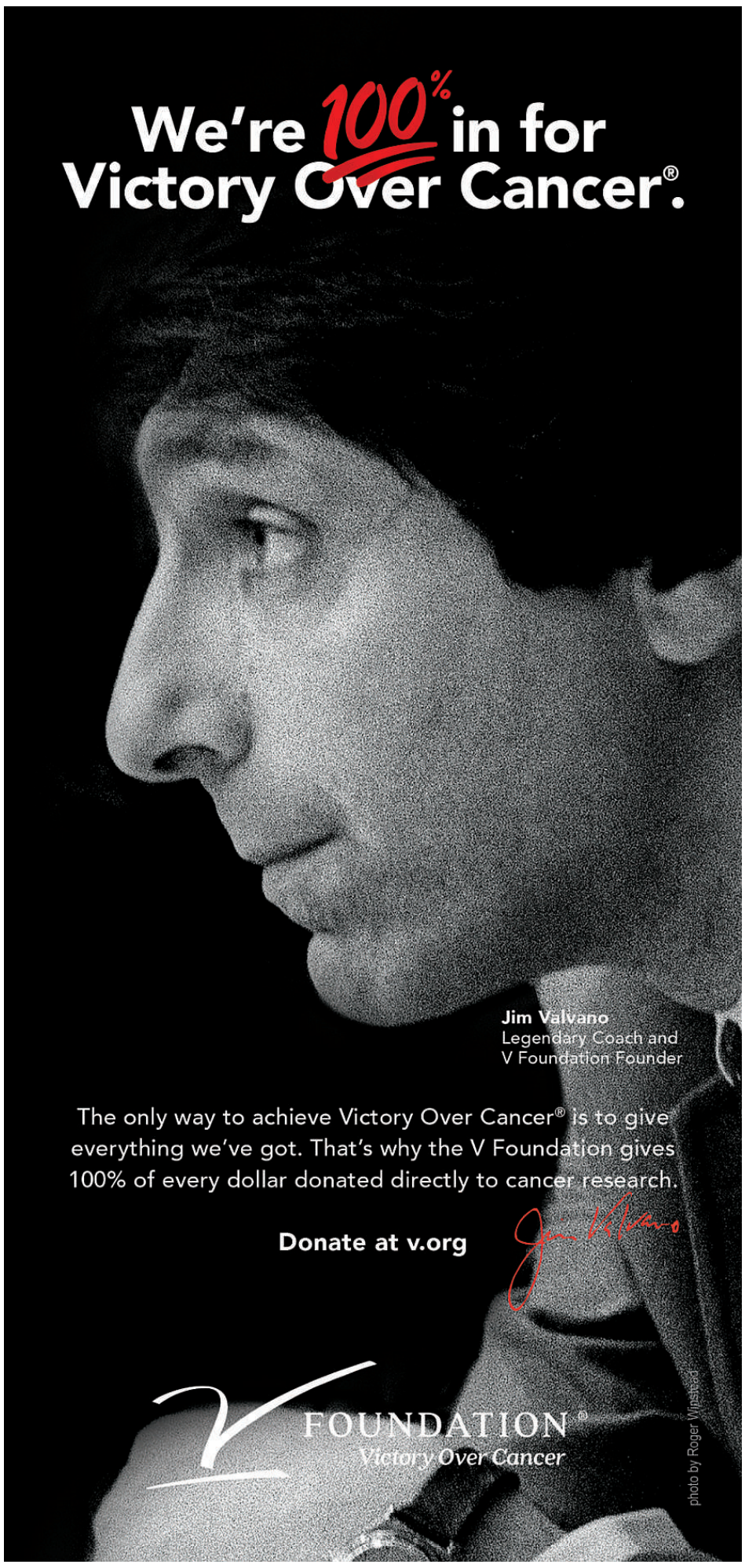
The bill also expanded on the requirement that county prosecutors promptly notify IDFPR when healthcare workers are charged with certain offenses to include arrests or charges related to sexual or intimate conduct. The Tribune found there were sometimes delays between when a worker was charged and when doctors and other healthcare workers were required to provide care under the supervision of a medical chaperone.

Cassidy said the bill was complex and took many months of negotiating and hard conversations, but that supporters regularly recentered sexual abuse survivors as they moved the bill forward.

"We fundamentally have rewritten this entire process," Cassidy said.

State Rep. Kelly Cassidy, D-Chicago, shown outside her Rogers Park office on Wednesday, sponsored legislation seeking to strengthen Illinois laws related to sexual abuse in health settings. JOSH BOLAND/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Attorney Tamara Holder, center, shown at a 2024 news conference, represented many women who sued former gynecologist Fabio Ortega, including Ericka Matos, right.
STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE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EDITORIALS

Data centers are a lightning rod. Some state regulation is reasonable

Demonstrators gather for a rally about proposed legislation to regulate construction of data centers during the spring legislative session outside the State Capitol on May 30 in Springfield. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Data centers are necessary infrastructure in a digital age, but the status quo isn't working. For it's not only the counties and municipalities that data center developers are targeting that are affected. Data centers consume outsize amounts of electricity, and growth expectations for the sector alone already have driven up the cost of power.

The Lake County Board on Tuesday moved to impose a temporary moratorium on new data centers in unincorporated parts of the county.

In that same county, the Grayslake Village Board recently approved a massive data-center complex, igniting a firestorm within the normally quiet exurb. Opponents are preparing a lawsuit to reverse Grayslake's approval.

About 200 miles south, in staunchly Republican Logan County, just north of Springfield, the county board last month approved a 12-month moratorium on new data centers, halting for now a proposal by Miami-based Hut 8 Corp. to construct a 50-acre, $5 billion data center. The company says it's determining whether to continue to seek approval in light of the setback.

These are just a few of the data-center debates raging throughout Illinois. Local officials are finding that many of their constituents are deeply suspicious of these projects, even though they promise to generate potentially transformative property-tax revenues.

The opposition is bipartisan. Red and blue counties alike that are entertaining these proposals are encountering the same buzz saw.

Data centers are necessary infrastructure in a digital age, but the status quo isn't working. For it's not only the counties and municipalities that data center developers are targeting that are affected. Data centers consume outsize amounts of electricity, and growth expectations for the sector alone already have driven up the cost of power. Commonwealth Edison customers, as well as consumers all over the country, are seeing the effects in their higher electric bills.

We met recently with ComEd CEO Gil Quiniones, and he told us the utility has received about 100 data center applications. If all were built, they alone would consume considerably more power than ComEd's peak record delivery of 24,000 megawatts throughout its service area on a sweltering summer's day.

Get your head around that.

Of course, they won't all be realized, but the magnitude of the problem is clear. Northern Illinois long has been blessed with more power generated within its borders than it needs. That appears poised to change dramatically.

Given substantial increases in demand, fueled in large part by data centers, as well as the closure of existing fossil fuel-fired power plants, the region will become a net importer of electricity as soon as 2030, according to state projections.

So what exactly are data centers? They are essentially sprawling storage structures, housing servers and other similar equipment powering the digital needs of the modern economy as well as — controversially — the fast-growing demands of artificial intelligence. They're not all the same.

As Quiniones explained to us, there are essentially three types. One group is made up of enterprise/cloud facilities that back the needs of a single digital company. Another is comprised of multi-tenant centers that provide the same service for more than one outfit. And then there are so-called hyperscale facilities critical to development of AI products and services. That last group is far and away the most energy-intensive.

Atlanta-based T5 Data Centers' approved Grayslake facility, for example, is a hyperscaler, designed (once fully built out) to house 18 buildings and consume up to 1,600 megawatts of electricity. To put that in perspective, that's nearly 70% of the output of the Byron nuclear power station some 75 miles to the west, which generates up to 2,347 megawatts, enough to serve more than 1.7 million homes.

Right now, Illinois is the Wild West when it comes to accommodating the data-center industry. Municipalities and counties have widely varying approaches and are in far different negotiating positions. Many are in such fiscal distress that they may well be tempted to host data centers for the potential property-tax bonanza that could bail them out in one fell swoop.

That's no way to regulate an industry that by its very nature imposes heavily on the region even if it can be a game-changing boon to individual localities.

Bills were introduced in Springfield over the spring to impose ground rules on data center development. None went anywhere, as legislative leaders deemed them not ready for prime time.

But there are expectations that state lawmakers will act on the issue during the fall veto session. In the meantime, Gov. JB Pritzker has announced that the state's tax incentives for data centers, created back when the industry's public standing was far more positive, will be put on hold for two years.

Trade unions in a position to benefit from data center construction jobs blocked Pritzker's request that lawmakers suspend the tax credits and are crying foul now that he's doing so unilaterally.

At the end of the day, though, the tax credit is a sideshow. We need statewide rules governing data center construction that ensures the industry won't soak up power supplies keeping the lights on in the state. That means the industry will need to take more responsibility for building or financing new power generation in Illinois to serve its needs. Too many developers right now are taking the position that their primary obligation is to pay for connecting their projects to the existing grid and then availing themselves of existing power supplies.

Pritzker needs to take a hands-on approach, gathering all the stakeholders well in advance of the November veto session and hammering out a workable regimen, to ensure lawmakers have something on which to vote.

So is Illinois' social media tax going to take on Tinder? Nextdoor? Yelp? Yahoo?

Illinois' new budget includes a new tax — shocking, we know. This time, the target is social media companies.

The plan is to create a graduated tax of sorts on those powerful businesses, based on the number of users they have here in Illinois.

The architects behind this grand idea say that it will generate about $200 million per year.

If it gets off the ground.

This statute reads more like a concept than a finished policy. Social media "fees" will be collected beginning Jan. 1, 2027, and seem destined for legal challenges long before then.

We never liked this idea in the first place. Now, a devastating analysis from The Tax Foundation details this ill-conceived and sloppy statute's fundamental flaws. We'll walk you through the basic mechanics and the biggest problems.

The plan imposes escalating monthly fees on social media companies based on the number of Illinois users they have, topping out at $165,000 per month plus 50 cents for every user above 1 million.

But what is a user? The authors never got around to identifying the very thing they want to tax.

Suppose one Illinoisan has two Facebook accounts and three Instagram profiles. Is that five users? One user? Two? What if some of those accounts aren't active?

The statute doesn't say.

What about those lovebirds who share an account? Is that one user or two?

Another mystery.

The problems go even deeper.

Who, exactly, counts toward these totals? The phrasing "average number of monthly users of the platform located in the State of Illinois" leaves things very vague.

Does this mean Illinois residents? People physically in the state, whether they're visiting from out of state or not? Users whose IP addresses appear to be in Illinois but who may live elsewhere? Anyone whose profile lists Illinois as their home state?

You'd expect that a tax or fee that depends entirely on a count would also spell out the counting methodology in great detail.

But the legislation's problems with definitions keep going.

Where's the line between "social media" and "something else"? Legislative authors' definition — that the service must "primarily serve" as a medium for users to interact with content generated by other users — is sweeping. So the law also leaves room for debate about which online services — Yelp? Nextdoor? Substack? Snapchat? Tinder? Ring? Reddit? BeReal? — qualify as "social media" platforms, offering little guidance on how regulators should make these determinations.

We wish more legislators had raised red flags before this thing sailed through the General Assembly.

We do not disagree with the sentiment that social media poses major cultural and societal problems, especially for young people. We understand the instinct to want to curb those ills.

Taxing social media, however, is difficult and complicated. While we'd prefer the state stop tacking on new taxes altogether, if you accept that this social media fee scheme is legitimate in theory, legislators at least need to clearly define exactly what they are taxing and how they intend to measure it. A tax that is claimed to generate $200 million annually should come with clear definitions and clear rules.

Legislators need to realize that big tech is self-protective and eschews state boundaries in multifarious ways. Thus, it is very difficult for states to tax.

Throwing legislative tax spaghetti against the wall isn't going to stick.

ON THIS DAY 101 YEARS AGO POLITICAL BRICK

Arthur Evans, in his story of brick in Chicago, said that architects estimate that if builders could use tile instead of brick there would be a saving of $500 in the average two story house and from 5 to 7 per cent on a skyscraper. Tile cannot be used in construction walls in Chicago because the brickmakers have been politically good enough to keep it from being used. They have had a grip on city regulations for over twenty years.

In the suburbs and towns just outside Chicago tile is used, and the Chicago builder can see his neighbors getting the advantage of it, but he cannot build that way because the ordinances will not permit him.

It is not a fire precaution. Tile is just as non-conductive as brick. It is not for any reasons of safety in construction, either for the dwellers in the house or their neighbors. The answer to tile is political brick.

Hollow tile makes a cooler house in summer and a warmer house in winter.

In the winter that saves on the coal bill. It is estimated that it saves from two to three tons of coal in an eight room house. Brick making is virtually a monopoly in Chicago, and with tile out brick is in good. Sometimes a builder gets a special permit for tile, but the ordinary builder is handed over to the brickmaker.

Occasionally the council looks into the matter. It is doing so now. Mayor Dever says he insists upon the removal of the restrictions against tile. William Schlake, the Supreme Brick, has been doing very well so far, but he may have to take off his coat and meet a little competition with another building material.

Tribune editorial board, June 12, 1925

BILL BRAMHALL

OPINION

The lasting cultural changes since the 1966 Division Street Riots

By Michael Peregrine
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Smoke rises from a burning squad car as a crowd surrounds it during a disturbance on June 12, 1966, on the West Side. **JAMES MAYO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Most Chicagoans know Division Street as one of the city's truly prominent arterial roadways. With its famous designation as "1200 North" in the municipal grid system, it runs from its eastern origin at Lake Shore Drive and the water's edge to a western terminus at Thatcher Woods in River Forest.

Far fewer Chicagoans know it as the site of one of the most significant of the city's many violent 1960s social conflicts. Sixty years ago, from June 12 to June 14, 1966, the intersection of Division Street and Damen Avenue was the epicenter of the first recognized uprising of a Puerto Rican community in an American city. It led to a significant, if gradual, change in the social and political standing of Chicago's Puerto Rican community.

The first major migration of Puerto Ricans to Chicago began in the 1950s, with large numbers settling in Lincoln Park. Many found employment as low-paid laborers in service industries and factories. But the area's subsequent gentrification prompted the Puerto Rican community to move west to the more affordable neighborhoods of West Town, Wicker Park and Humboldt Park. It was within this forced relocation that the seeds of the 1966 conflict were likely sown.

Life in the Division Street corridor presented new hardships for the Puerto Rican community, including housing discrimination, poor neighborhood schools, restricted access to decent-paying jobs, limited interaction with city services and difficulty in finding church homes. From this grew a sense of isolation that would later manifest itself in a deeply problematic relationship with the Chicago Police Department and its controversial efforts to reduce area crime. Many of the same hardships simultaneously confronted the city's Black community.

In 1966, Mayor Richard J. Daley pronounced the first week of June as "Puerto Rican Week," highlighted by neighborhood celebrations and a large State Street parade on June 11. But by the evening of June 12, the tone markedly changed, as police and celebrants clashed at Damen and Division. A young Puerto Rican, alleged to have been carrying a gun, was shot and wounded by police. A crowd of several thousand gathered; police dogs were called in, and the crowd responded with assaults on the police. The angry crowd grew at nightfall, instigated by word of mouth and local radio broadcasts.

The riot surged again on June 13, following a large, peaceful rally organized by area religious and community leaders. Rioters again attacked police with rocks, bottles and other objects, and looted and burned local buildings. On the evening of June 14, over 500 police officers surged into the Division and Damen area in an ultimately successful effort to stifle the rioting, but not before many injuries, arrests and widespread property damage had occurred.

In the riot's aftermath came several positive developments. A 5-mile protest march from the Division Street neighborhood to City Hall took place, without violence. And the Chicago Commission on Human Relations held a series of hearings on the plight of the city's Latino residents, which included discussions of the grievances of the Puerto Rican community and the formulation of several policy recommendations. In addition, new Puerto Rican cultural and support organizations began to form, several of which continue to operate to this day. The Chicago Police Department began to hire more Puerto Rican officers. And the development of the Paseo Boricua district on Division, between California and Western, increased community pride.

But with the benefit of 60 years of hindsight, it's fair to ask: Has lasting progress truly been made since those three hot summer nights in Humboldt Park?

Certainly some. Through the Latino Caucus in Chicago's City Council and leadership positions in government agencies and institutions, there are measurable indications of Puerto Rican political and commercial influence. But whether it is enough progress, considering that Latinos as a whole represent almost 30% of the city's population, is debatable. Furthermore, the famous diversity of the city's broad Latino coalition suggests that the fruits of such influence might not be shared evenly among its constituents.

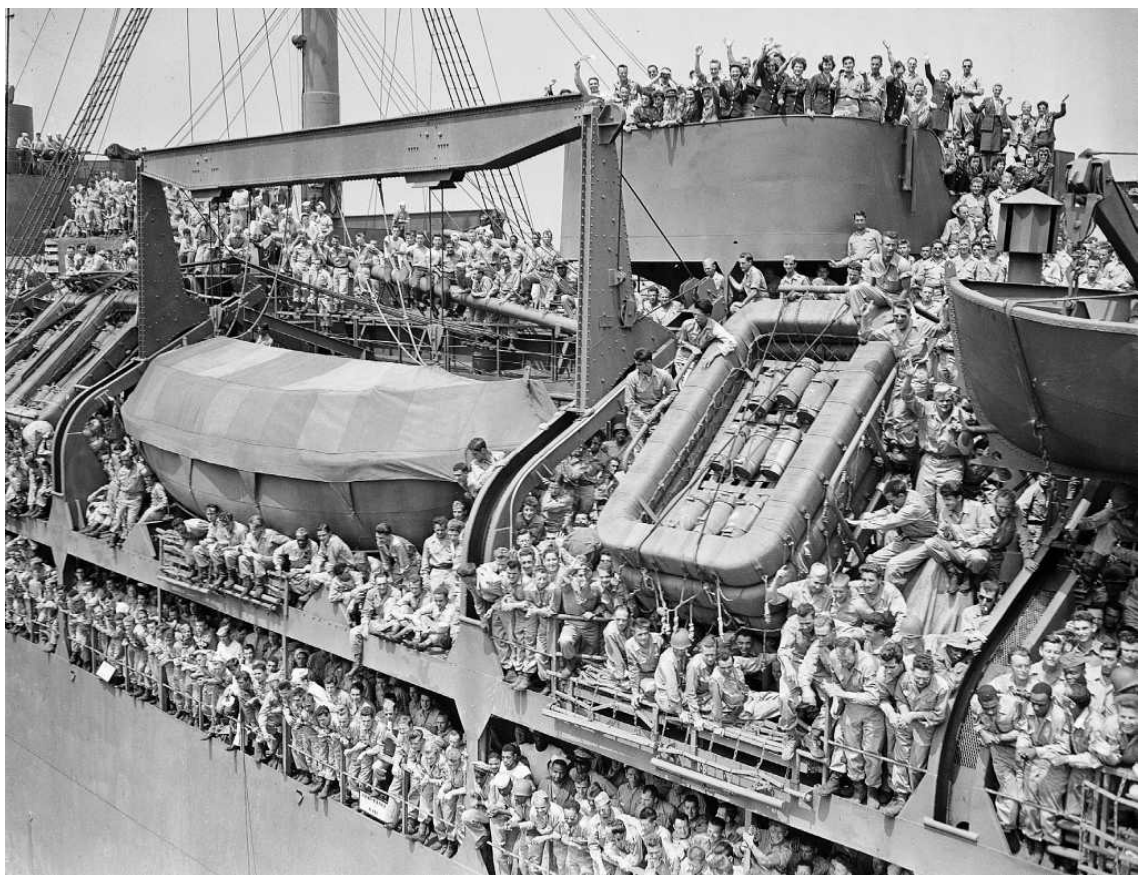
And any lasting progress must also be measured against other disturbing events. Memories of Operation Midway Blitz remain raw. The plight of the "Broadview Six" should be shocking. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement continues to fund deportation operations and build mass detention facilities. So maybe not so much progress, after all.

The roughly 12 miles of Division Street, from the lakefront to the forest preserve, are lined with many great neighborhoods, each with its own unique stories to tell. Stories of vitality and decline; of abundance and deficit; of community and tension; of tolerance and intolerance. Stories that tell us much about our city, our neighbors and the challenges they continue to face. And as we drive down Division Street, we would do well to acknowledge those challenges and what must be done to redress them.

Michael Peregrine is a retired Chicago lawyer who grew up near Division Street's River Forest terminus.

My father, a WWII refugee, would no longer recognize our country

By Alex Poppe
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE



Docked at Pier 88 in Manhattan in New York City, soldiers aboard the USS General Harry Taylor celebrate their homecoming after World War II on Aug. 18, 1945. **AP**

He was the killer of big blond spiders, the fixer of household things, an occasional Santa's helper. Among his many acts of service, my father volunteered with Chicago's Christmas Ship, bringing Christmas trees to disadvantaged families in the area.

My father was also a refugee.

Dad was 6 years old when his homeland of Germany attacked Poland and started World War II. My grandmother boarded him on a farm outside Berlin to keep him safe. He remembered running through a field toward the farmhouse as Allied forces strafed it. I always wondered what it must have been like for him, being separated from his mother, who stayed in Berlin, and his father, who was conscripted, and living with strangers far from what was familiar. But he didn't often recount the past.

Although my father fiercely defended border control, he was outraged by Present Donald Trump's family separation policies during his first term, which separated more than 5,000 children from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border. Since Trump's return to office in 2025, more than 145,000 children have had a parent detained in deportation campaigns, according to a recent Brookings Institution report.

My father did not stay at the farm. When Allied bombing campaigns intensified, my grandmother worried that the railroad tracks would be obliterated, so she brought my father back to Berlin. In an apartment building there, my father and grandmother would listen for the telltale tap of the Gestapo's hobnail boots and scurry up stairs to the attic to cross over and come down into another section of the building, where my grandmother's Catholic friend lived, so they could hide.

That haunting piece of family history resurfaced for me when the "Broadview Six" and others protested outside a suburban immigration detention facility. Chicagoans blew whistles and filmed detainments while immigration agents patrolled neighborhoods with military-grade weapons as part of Operation Midway Blitz.

Once, toward the end of WWII, when my father and grandmother were in an air raid shelter, a few Russian soldiers came in, sat in the middle of the room and started cleaning their rifles. Dad told me: "They would aim the weapon at one of us, but not fire it. They seemed to have fun with it. I thought for sure I was going to die that day." He was only 12. I heard his words again when I read about federal immigration agents descending from a Black Hawk helicopter, breaking down doors, and zip-tying U.S. citizens and immigrants in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood last September.

With support from the organization that was the precursor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, my father and grandmother immigrated to the United States aboard the General Henry Taylor. The ship sailed past the Statue of Liberty into New York Harbor. I imagine my father's dread and excitement, his sense of loss and hope, as he took his first steps on U.S. soil at age 16.

My father and grandmother were met by an affiliate of the refugee group, who arranged a place for them to sleep and then brought them to Penn Station. They caught a train to Chicago, where my grandmother had some friends, and they were on their own.

If they were seeking safety in the U.S. today, they might need to fly to Mexico as Ukrainians did after Russia's 2022 invasion. Or they might have to travel on foot across multiple countries, taking only what they could carry; cross the Darién Gap, with its extortioners, traffickers, sexual violators, thieves, flash floods and wild animals; and travel north through Mexico atop a train, eating instant coffee so they wouldn't fall asleep and roll off. They would arrive at the U.S. border having not bathed in days.

Immigration officials would look at them but not see the people they had been or who they were going to become.

My father and grandmother first settled in Englewood. Dad went to night school to learn English and was attending Englewood High School when he got drafted into the Army. He passed the GED test while completing his military service, earned a bachelor's degree in business from Northwestern University and built a comfortable middle-class living for himself.

Despite Executive Order 13269, signed by Republican President George W. Bush, which grants expedited citizenship to noncitizens serving honorably in the armed forces, approximately 94,000 noncitizen veterans were at risk of detainment or deportation as of 2024. Over the past year, 248 relatives of former military members have been put into deportation proceedings, 125 former service members have been arrested for immigration violations and 34 former military members have been put into deportation proceedings.

Dad often credited the U.S. for saving his life. He was fiercely proud to be an American, but I am not sure he would recognize his beloved country today.

When the president lets immigration officers operate with expanded authority and limited accountability, threatens to send the military into U.S. cities, strips people of due process and tries to implement indefinite detention without bond hearings, the U.S. resembles the authoritarian country Dad and my grandmother fought so hard to escape.

The life my father built for himself in Chicago would have been impossible in postwar Berlin. In midlife, he taught himself how to sail and eventually served as the commodore of the Burnham Park Yacht Club. He once told me he couldn't believe someone like him was allowed to belong to a yacht club, let alone lead it.

Dad believed in the promise of the U.S. — that those seeking safety and opportunity would find them here — because he had lived it. That U.S. promise has enabled a pluralistic society that reflects the best of our country's values: hope and goodwill between peoples, care, concern and understanding. The ruptures in our nation, exemplified by family separation, indefinite detention, mass deportation and an absence of refugee resettlement for most everyone except white South Afrikaners, will destroy the essence of the U.S.

Alex Poppe is an award-winning author of four books of literary fiction and the bestselling "Breakfast Wine," a memoir-in-essays about her wild ride through Iraq. She has worked in conflict zones such as Iraq, the West Bank and Ukraine.

OPINION

Ukraine's cheap drones and combat robots offer hope for the good guys

Elizabeth Shackelford

A Ukrainian serviceman of the 33rd Mechanized Brigade operates a land combat drone during a training at a polygon in Kharkiv region, Ukraine, on Wednesday. **ANDRII MARIENKO/AP**

When Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Washington and Europe expected a quick Russian victory. Russia's population was more than three times that of Ukraine, its military four times larger and gross domestic product 10 times bigger. The power imbalance was just too great. That Russia was entirely in the wrong meant little. Any realist would tell you Ukraine would fall.

Then President Volodymyr Zelenskyy refused to flee, and Russia couldn't take Kyiv. Observers decided that Ukraine just might be able to stave off defeat, as long as generous U.S. military assistance kept coming. Ukraine faced steep losses but stayed in the fight.

Then Donald Trump returned to the U.S. presidency in January 2025. He had spent years blaming Ukraine for being invaded and covering for Vladimir Putin's war crimes, so it now seemed inevitable that U.S. support would end and Ukraine would lose. U.S. assistance nearly dried up, and Trump pressed Zelenskyy to accept Putin's terms. Observers in Washington and European capitals began to debate exactly how much territory Ukraine would have to surrender to sue for peace.

And yet, 18 months into Trump's second term and four years into Russia's full-scale war, Ukraine still hasn't fallen. In fact, it's beginning to gain the upper hand. April was the first month in nearly two years that Russia had a net loss in territory. In a year full of bad news stories, Ukraine is offering hope that the good guys just might win.

How has Ukraine defied expectations? To be sure, Europe stepped up its aid to help fill the gap caused by reduced U.S. assistance. But that aid had never been enough to bring Ukraine victory. It had merely helped keep Ukraine from losing outright.

Ukraine is turning the tide with Ukrainian resolve and innovation. Should it manage to end this war with its independence intact and its territory defensible, that won't only make for a sweeter victory, but the country that emerges will be stronger for it too.

Ukraine couldn't outdo Russia in force, so it had to in ingenuity and collective commitment. The Ukrainian public mobilized to resist. Some civilians joined volunteer battalions or were drafted to join the military, while others contributed in different ways, from intelligence gathering and crowd-sourcing funding to food and medical distribution networks and critical infrastructure repair.

The civilian contribution most consequential to the fight, however, has been the rapid advances in the home-grown defense industry. Ukrainian professionals who once worked in finance, information technology, construction, game design and architecture have turned their civilian capabilities to military means. The results have been staggering.

Ukraine is rapidly producing cheap drones that impede Russia's advances. It has short-range drones for the battlefield, midrange drones that are disrupting Russia's logistics resupply and troop rotation and long-range drones that can strike targets deep within Russian territory, eroding Putin's sense of security back home. Its unmanned ground vehicles are conducting reconnaissance, evacuations and logistical missions. Combat robots are even recapturing territory without putting soldiers at risk. Ukraine faces a foe that also has access to cheap drones, so perhaps its most important development has been artificial intelligence-powered drone interceptors, which have impeded at low cost Russia's ability to inflict heavy losses.

Ukrainian technology is now in high demand from countries such as Qatar and Saudi Arabia that need similar defenses against inexpensive but deadly drones. After all, the drones Russia is using are Iranian-made Shaheds.

Ukraine's defense industry is now producing this technology at scale. As of early 2026, its companies were producing up to 1,000 interceptor drones a day. More than 500 companies are now manufacturing drones inside the country, producing millions each year. Most of these companies didn't exist before 2022.

And the innovation keeps coming. Engineers are working directly with combat units to enable real-time feedback that drives constant improvements and adjustments as new technology is battlefield-tested. These are the kinds of heroic developments that only a crisis makes possible. Necessity is the mother of invention, after all.

Undoubtedly, Putin still has the capacity and will to inflict serious damage on Ukraine's people and infrastructure. It is unlikely this war will end absent some kind of diplomatic resolution. But Ukraine looks more and more likely to be entering the next round of negotiations with a strong upper hand.

The importance of this today goes far beyond Ukraine. The rules-based international order was established in the wake of World War II to deter wars of aggression and provide an alternative to the long-standing global reality of might makes right. That order has been faltering, flouted repeatedly by the powerful who have faced no consequences for aggression, leaving the world overall more dangerous for everyone else.

But Ukraine is fighting back against that bleak reality. In a clear battle between right and wrong, the bully may lose. Ukraine may ultimately prevail through grit, determination and imagination.

War is unpredictable, and the tide may well change again. But, for now, it's good to see the good guys take the lead.

Elizabeth Shackelford is a senior adviser with the Institute for Global Affairs at Eurasia Group and a foreign affairs columnist for the Chicago Tribune. She is also a distinguished lecturer with the Dickey Center at Dartmouth College. She was previously a U.S. diplomat and is the author of "The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age."

Voice of the people

The plan to 'Redefine the Drive'

In late May, the Illinois Department of Transportation announced that it was revisiting its recommended proposal for rebuilding North DuSable Lake Shore Drive. Speaking as a Lakeview resident, a bike commuter and a cargo bike parent, I believe that restarting the process and potentially slowing down north-south travel on DuSable Lake Shore Drive is a mistake.

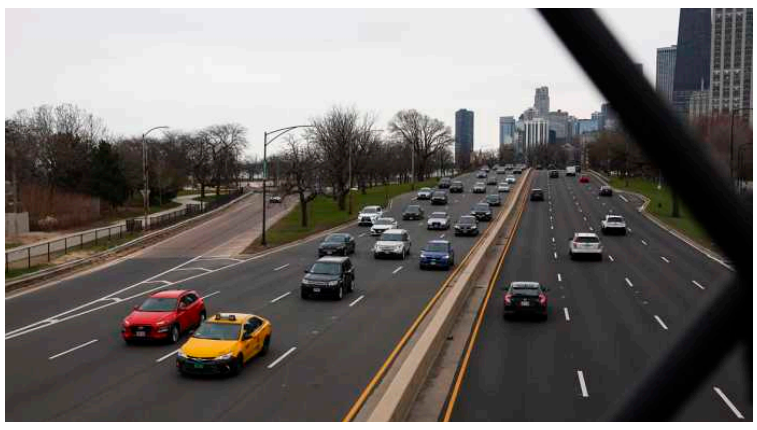
I don't drive often, but a DuSable Lake Shore Drive that is an efficient mover of traffic has been critical for my family. Between 2020 and 2023, I was blessed with two trips to Prentice Women's Hospital for the birth of my two children and had the misfortune of making several urgent trips to Lurie's Children's Hospital. It is hard to quantify how important it is to have the ability to move through the city quickly when you are rushing to the downtown hospital district or are driving home for a brief rest after watching over an infant who required hospitalization.

Zooming out, 150,000 vehicles use DuSable Lake Shore Drive daily to get to work, visit family or enjoy many of the entertainment activities Chicago has to offer. Making DuSable Lake Shore Drive less usable for cars will push more vehicle traffic to neighborhood streets and will increase travel times for Chicago-area commuters. Some people will counter that "it's only a few minutes," but these extra 10 or 15 minutes each way add up, robbing families of valuable together time.

We don't have to imagine what a future that restricts vehicle travel on Lake Shore Drive would look like. Consider the massive travel disruptions caused by the Ridge Avenue work last summer or the current gridlock related to bridge work at Cortland, Halsted and Lake Avenue bridges.

DuSable Lake Shore Drive was recently named as one of the most beautiful roads in the world. It needs an update. The option recommended by IDOT in 2024 improves on the current design by expanding public spaces, making the lakefront more accessible and the road safer. Let's stop stalling this project, proceed with IDOT's excellent recommendation and keep the city moving.

— Roman Shuster, Chicago



Drivers travel on DuSable Lake Shore Drive on April 9, 2025. **EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Barrier to jury participation

Growing up as the son of a single mother who needed every cent of her paycheck to keep a roof over our heads, I understand firsthand that civic duty cannot exist in a vacuum; it must reflect and support the real lives of those asked to fulfill it.

I also know what it feels like to be on the wrong end of an unjust outcome in our legal system. That experience taught me that who sits in the jury box matters enormously and that when financial hardship determines who can afford to serve, justice suffers.

That is why I urge Gov. JB Pritzker to sign HB4844.

This legislation would require employers to pay employees their regular wages during jury service, a long-overdue reform that addresses one of the most persistent barriers to equal participation in our justice system. To protect small businesses, the bill sensibly exempts employers with 25 or fewer employees.

Jury service is a cornerstone of justice, yet Illinois currently pays jurors as little as $4 to $10 per day in most counties. Cook County pays just $35 per day. For working Illinoisans living paycheck to paycheck, those figures don't cover lost wages — they don't even come close. The predictable result is that hourly workers and lower-income residents seek hardship exemptions, fail to appear or struggle to comply with summonses altogether, while jury pools increasingly skew toward retirees and salaried workers who can more easily absorb the cost.

This isn't just a fairness problem; it is a justice problem. When financial hardship determines who can afford to serve, juries stop reflecting the communities they are meant to represent. I have lived that reality on both sides.

HB4844 changes that. Pritzker should sign it.

— King Moosa, organizing manager, Citizen Action/Illinois, Chicago

Teaching kids how to swim

My organization and I appreciated the recent op-ed by Chuka Onuh and Dr. Amy Hanson highlighting the urgent need for drowning prevention and greater access to swim instruction for Chicago youths ("This summer, Chicago can help stop the tragedy of drownings," June 1). Their opinion piece sheds important light on a preventable tragedy that continues to impact families and communities, particularly when children lack opportunities to learn critical water safety skills.

At Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago (BGCC), we see firsthand how access to swimming lessons can change lives. BGCC operates four indoor pools in East Garfield Park, Uptown, Little Village and Bridgeport, providing aquatics programming that is free to club members year-round. Our pools allow young people to continuously develop and strengthen water safety skills in neighborhoods where access to swim instruction is often limited.

The need is significant. Learning to swim is a lifesaving skill, yet many children never receive formal instruction. In fact, nearly three-quarters of youths who participate in BGCC aquatics programs have never taken swimming lessons. Last year, we served more than 1,100 young people through aquatics programming.

BGCC also offers free learn-to-swim lessons, water safety education, recreational swimming opportunities and competitive swim teams.

Still, access remains a challenge. While BGCC operates four pools, five of our club locations do not have aquatics facilities. Transportation is often the greatest barrier preventing youths from participating in swim lessons. Last summer, when we provided transportation for young people from our club in Austin to the nearest pool we operate in East Garfield Park, 98% of participants were taking their first-ever swim lesson. We are planning the acquisition of our first passenger van — funded by a donor — to support transportation needs in Austin. Drowning prevention requires community-wide solutions. We are proud to be part of that effort through year-round aquatics programming and encourage continued support for transportation and access initiatives that help ensure every child, regardless of ZIP code, has the opportunity to learn to swim.

— Susanna Wickham, president and CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago

Ensure kids can access care

Children with rheumatic conditions, such as juvenile arthritis and lupus, rely on highly specialized care from a pediatric rheumatologist to treat and manage their disease. Pediatric rheumatology became a medical specialty 50 years ago, but there are still only about 400 of us nationwide and more than 300,000 patients who rely on our care. And now, limited federal Graduate Medical Education (GME) funding, uneven Medicaid reimbursement and restrictive immigration policies all threaten to make that shortage worse.

Since Medicaid reimbursement lags behind Medicare rates, and a much higher proportion of children in the U.S. are covered by Medicaid (more than 30%) compared to adults, pediatric subspecialists often earn significantly less than their counterparts in adult practice. This creates financial disincentives for graduating medical students and residents to enter the pediatric subspecialty workforce. Meanwhile, international medical graduates — who make up nearly 25% of the U.S. physician workforce — face visa restrictions that limit their ability to practice, especially in already-underserved areas. Cumulatively, these factors threaten to further reduce the number of pediatric rheumatologists in the years ahead.

Without action, children with complex rheumatic conditions may face longer wait times, delayed diagnoses and reduced access to life-altering care. Congress and state policymakers can help by expanding GME funding for pediatric subspecialties, ensuring adequate Medicaid reimbursement for pediatric care, and maintaining pathways for international medical graduates to enter and remain in the U.S. healthcare workforce.

Childhood is short, and kids demand timely access to specialized care. Improving these policy levers is critical to securing a sustainable pediatric rheumatology workforce to improve outcomes for children across the country.

— Dr. Brian Nolan, pediatric rheumatologist, Chicago and New Lenox

For online-exclusive letters, go to www.chicagotribune.com/letters. Email your letter submissions, 400 words or less, to letters@chicagotribune.com. Include your full name, address and phone number.

A worker with a chain saw watches heavy machinery scoop up parts of a large fallen tree in the 4600 block of South Laflin Avenue in Chicago on Thursday following storms the day before. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Chicagoland area faced tornado watch, severe weather Thursday

By Tess Kenny and Deanese Williams-Harris
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Nico Garmendia, left, and Marion Madanguit sit beneath the branches of a fallen tree in an intersection on Thursday in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood after storms caused damaged across the region the day before. The two friends were on their way to the park when they decided to enjoy the unexpected shady spot instead. **BRIAN CASSELLA/ CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

The entire Chicago metro area was under a tornado watch Thursday night.

The National Weather Service expanded its tornado watch Thursday afternoon to include parts of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin.

The watch was in effect for 51 counties across Illinois, including Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will. Weather officials warned that severe storms through the afternoon and early evening could likely bring several tornadoes, scattered hail up to the size of a tennis ball and widespread gusts of up to 80 mph.

In anticipation of the severe weather, a Mumford & Sons concert at Wrigley Field originally set to begin at 6:30 p.m. was pushed back three and a half hours, the band announced on social media. The opening sets were canceled.

Elsewhere, the 45th Annual Fiestas Patronales Puertorriqueñas did not open Thursday afternoon in Humboldt Park as scheduled and will open instead at 3 p.m. Friday.

On Wednesday, several calls of tornado activity poured in, but until weather officials investigate damage, no tornadoes had been confirmed as of Thursday morning.

Buena Park resident and artist Mia Dalton says she watched a gust of wind knock two objects that looked like HVAC units or AC unit covers off of a nearby apartment building's roof. Dalton caught the incident on camera and uploaded it to TikTok.

"I was looking out my window at the storm and I saw the crazy wind, I saw trees breaking and as I'm taking a video, all of a sudden I see something fall off of the roof next to me and I hear a loud bang," she said. "I couldn't believe I got it on video."

"I saw people running around the same area after it happened and I was so anxious while the storm was still going that there was going to be something else that fell," she added.

As of Thursday afternoon, more than 130,000 ComEd customers were without power.

As storms approached, weather officials were keeping an eye on the southern and western suburbs and areas south of Interstate 80 in particular for tornado activity, according to Kevin Donofrio, a meteorologist with the weather service in Chicago. The risk for tornadoes in those areas was "slightly elevated," Donofrio said.

By mid-afternoon, the weather service — on top of the tornado watch — had issued a host of alerts for flooding, thunderstorms and high winds in response to the storms. Ahead of more storms expected for the early evening, Donofrio said locally damaging winds could reach up to 60 mph.

The Tribune's Evgenia Anastasakos and Doug George contributed.

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON JUNE 12 ...

In 1898 Philippine nationalists declared independence from Spain.

In 1924 George H.W. Bush, the nation's 41st president, was born in Milton, Mass.

In 1937 the Soviet Union executed eight army leaders during Josef Stalin's ruthless purges.

In 1939 the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was dedicated in Cooperstown, N.Y.

In 1963 civil rights leader Medgar Evers, 37, was shot to death outside his home in Jackson, Miss. (In 1994, Byron De La Beckwith was convicted of murdering Evers and was sentenced to life in prison; he died in 2001.)

In 1967 the Supreme Court struck down state laws banning interracial marriages.

In 1978 David Berkowitz was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for each of the six "son of Sam" shooting deaths that had terrified New Yorkers.

In 1981 Major League Baseball players began a 49-day strike over the issue of free-agent compensation. (The season did not resume until Aug. 10)

In 1987 President Ronald Reagan visited the Berlin Wall and, in a speech, challenged Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall."

In 1994 Nicole Brown Simpson and a friend, Ronald Goldman, were stabbed to death outside her Los Angeles home. (Her ex-husband, O.J. Simpson, was later acquitted of the killings in a criminal trial but held liable in a civil action.) Also in 1994 Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, the charismatic Hasidic Jewish leader, died in New York; he was 92.

In 1996 Senate Republicans chose Trent Lott of Mississippi to succeed Bob Dole as majority leader. Also in 1996 a panel of federal judges in Philadelphia blocked a law against indecency on the Internet, saying the 1996 Communications Decency Act would unlawfully chill adults' free-speech rights.

In 1997 Major League Baseball began interleague play during the regular season. Also in 1997 the Treasury Department unveiled a new $50 bill intended to be more counterfeit-resistant.

In 1999 thousands of NATO peacekeeping troops poured into Kosovo by air and by land; in a surprising move, a Russian armored column entered Pristina before dawn to a hero's welcome from Serb residents.

In 2003 U.S. fighter jets bombed a suspected terrorist camp and troops stormed through Sunni Muslim towns in Iraq, seeking Saddam Hussein loyalists in one of the biggest American military assaults since the war in Iraq began.

In 2005 American-educated professor and women's rights activist Massouma al-Mubarak was named Kuwait's first female Cabinet minister.

In 2012 Elinor Ostrom, the only woman to win the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, died; she was 78.

In 2013 Sarah Murnaghan, a 10-year-old girl with cystic fibrosis whose efforts to qualify for an organ donation spurred public debate over how organs are allocated, received a double-lung transplant in Philadelphia.

In 2015 President Barack Obama's ambitious Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agenda unraveled in a stunning setback delivered by his own party as the House rejected an important piece of a package aimed at fast-tracking the controversial pact he was pursuing with 11 other Pacific Rim nations. Also in 2015 the Republican Party of Iowa voted unanimously to drop its straw poll, once a staple campaign event for GOP presidential candidates, because of waning interest from 2016 hopefuls. Also in 2015 in France former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn was cleared of pimping charges related to separate accusations that he had taken part in and even organized orgies.

In 2016 a gunman claiming alligience to Islamic State opened fire at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Fla., leaving 49 people dead and 53 injured in the worst single-gunman mass shooting in U.S. history. Also in 2016 three races off Navy Pier for the Louis Vuitton America's Cup World Series saw six teams battle in freshwater for the first time in America's Cup history; slow winds had prevented an official race from taking place the day before.

Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

Death Notices

Cappitelli, Frank F.

Frank F. Cappitelli, 41, B.A., USMC, Veteran of the Afghanistan War.
It is with profound sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Frank. He was the cherished son of Mary Kay (Philbin) and the late Frank J.; dear brother of Katherine and Colleen; beloved nephew and cousin of many. Frank's loss is deeply felt by all who loved him. We will remember him with gratitude for the joy, laughter, and love he brought into our lives. His loss leaves an immeasurable void. In lieu of flowers donations made be made in Frank's name to The Headstrong Project, a non-profit organization providing mental health treatment to our veterans. Visitation will be Sunday, June 14, 2026, from 4:00-8:00 PM at Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home, 6150 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago. Funeral will be Monday June 15, 2026, 9:30am from the funeral home to Queen of All Saints Basilica for Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00AM. For info 773-736-3833 or www.smithcorcoran.com

Smith-Corcoran
Funeral Homes · Crematory · Funeral Planning

Finkler, James "Bobo"

James "Bobo" Finkler of Deerfield, Illinois, passed away at home on June 8, 2026. Jim was the husband of Mary Fran Finkler and the father of Heather Finkler. He was the brother of Jane (Ken) Gordon and the son of the late Robert and Lucille Finkler. Jim will be remembered for his energy, sense of humor, and the genuine way he connected with people. He valued family, friendships, and making the most of every day. Those who knew him knew his presence could fill a room and that he was always ready with a story, a laugh, or a helping hand. He will be deeply missed. In accordance with his wishes, Jim will be cremated, and no services will be held. Please join us on Monday, June 15th, from 11am-3pm for a party to celebrate Jim at Demetris at 660 Lake Cook Rd in Deerfield IL. All are welcome.

Gira, C.R., Sr. Rosemary

Sr. Rosemary Gira, CR, Member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Resurrection. Cherished and respected by her Sisters. Loving daughter of the late Francis and Sophie (Redlarski) Gira. Beloved sister of the late Reverend Edward Gira, C.R., the late Frank Gira, the late Erwin Gira, and the late Sister Mary Edward Gira, C.R. Dear aunt of Bishop Robert Kurtz, C.R., and the late Reverend Stephen Gira, C.R. Taught first and second grade for 50 years. Visitation Friday, June 12th from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Kolbus-John V. May Funeral Home, 6857 W. Higgins Ave., Chicago, IL. 60656. Funeral Mass on Saturday, May 13th at 10:30 a.m. at Mary, Seat of Wisdom Church, 920 Granville Ave., Park Ridge. Interment St. Adalbert Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, Mass stipends or memorials to the Sisters of the Resurrection Retirement Fund. (773)774-3232 or www.kolbusmayfh.com

Hagstrom, Roy Edward

Roy Hagstrom passed unexpectedly on March 30th 2026 at the age of 88 in Park Rapids. Mn. Roy was born July 13th 1937 in Chicago, Illinois, and later moved with his family to the woods of northern Minnesota. A memorial service honoring Roy's life will be held on June 13th at Jones- Pearson Funeral Home from 1-3 pm in Park Rapids, MN. Burial will be held after the service at Lake Alice Cemetery.

Lloyd, Janet Irene

Janet Irene Lloyd, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family. Born in Chicago on Jul 20, 1946 (Age 79). Janet lived a life defined by intelligence, determination, compassion, and love for the people around her.

She leaves behind sister & best friend, Catherine Hunter (Lloyd) /Tom Hunter (children: Alyssa and Daniel) and brother David /Denise Lloyd (children: Cameron and Brandon); sister Laura Billings Hampton. Proceeded in death by her beloved wife Joyce Parra who brought joy to all who knew her; her parents Winnifred Brubaker Billings and William Lloyd.

Janet valued education, earning several degrees (Rockford College, Roosevelt University, Northwestern University) and spoke 5 languages. She created her legacy saving up to ensure her siblings and nieces /nephews would also have the opportunity to attend college.

Janet's professional life was distinguished by dedication and versatility. She served as a Paralegal and Office Manager at a Chicago law firm for 20 years. She joined First Analysis Corporation, a venture capital firm as their first employee where she worked her way up to Financial/Compliance Manager /Office Manager. She later worked as a financial consultant serving as Controller at Quinlan & Crisham law firm, Accounting Manager at Re-Employment Services, Ltd. Her strong work ethic, sharp mind, and steady leadership left a lasting impact on every workplace she touched.

She lived in her home city of Chicago, Illinois until retirement, when she and Joyce moved between Florida and San Antonio, Texas. Along the way they created a life rich with experiences, travel, friendships, and beautiful memories.

Janet was a woman of remarkable intelligence and unwavering drive, someone whose strength carried her through life's challenges with grace. She approached every day with purpose and poured her incredible compassion into the people around her. Janet made others feel seen, valued, and supported. Her presence enriched the lives of those who knew her in ways that will be felt for years to come.

Every life story deserves to be told.
Share your loved one's story at placeanad.chicagotribune.com
Chicago Tribune

Death Notices

Passero, Salvatore

Salvatore Passero (1942–2026)

Salvatore "Sam" Passero, age 83, of Northlake, Norridge, Cicero and Chicago, passed away on June 9, 2026. He was born in Chicago in 1942 to Maria Clemente and Carmine Passero, the ninth of ten children. Salvatore attended St. Philip Basilica High School before working at Rossbach, R. Cooper Jr., Madigan's and All-Tile, among others. Salvatore was preceded in death by his siblings Carmen (Jr.), Joseph, Alvera (Vera) John, Phylis (Dolly) and Anthony, and is survived by sisters Mary and Jean, and brother Frankie. He is survived by his children Laura, Cynthia and Michael (Nicole); grandchildren Kelly (Tim), Aron, Kyle, Vince, Anthony, Melissa, Michael and great-grandchild, Maya; and many nieces and nephews. Visitation is Monday, June 15, 3 to 8pm, at Hitzeman Funeral Home, Ltd. 9445 31st Street, Brookfield, IL 60513. A cemetery service will take place Tuesday, June 16, at Queen of Heaven Cemetery Chapel, Hillside, IL. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to meet at the cemetery office by 11am. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the American Heart Association, the American Diabetes Association, or the National Kidney Foundation. Information 708-485-2000 or www.HitzemanFuneral.com

Hitzeman Funeral Home & Cremation Services

Stammich, Gregory

Gregory Stammich, beloved son of Marilynn and the late Ronald Stammich, loving husband of Jane Rees, devoted father of Jennifer Stammich and Hilary (Ross) DeReu, and proud Papa of Madeline and Jack Arthur, passed away peacefully surrounded by the love of his family on June 08, 2026, at the age of 62. Memorial Visitation: Drake & Son Funeral Home, 5303 North Western Ave., Chicago, IL, June 17, 2026, from 10am to 12pm, immediately followed by a memorial service. Committal & Inurnment: Rosehill Cemetery. For more information, please visit www.DrakeandSonFuneralHome.com.

Viscariello, Renee K.

Renee K. Viscariello (née Whalen), age 70, a resident of Plainfield, IL since 2006, formerly of Cicero and Riverside, IL, passed away on Monday, June 8, 2026, at Endeavor Health Edward Hospital in Naperville, IL. She was born on August 26, 1955, in Chicago, IL.
Arrangements by Overman-Jones Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 15219 S. Joliet Rd., Plainfield, IL 60544.
For service times and a complete obituary, please visit www.overman-jones.com or call (815) 436-9221 for more information.

Overman Jones
Funeral Homes & Cremation Services

Whitehead, Tanya D.

Lanark, Illinois – Tanya D. Whitehead, age 72, died Friday, June 5, 2026 at Serenity Hospice & Home near Oregon, IL. She was born June 23, 1953 in Scotts Bluff, Nebraska, the daughter of William and Esther (Cooper) Grubbs. She graduated from Conant High School in Hoffman Estates, IL, and obtained her PhD in Psychology and Education from University of Missouri-Kansas City. She taught and worked in the School of Nursing at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Tanya married William (Bill) D. Whitehead on August 12, 1972 in Hoffman Estates, IL. She had an insatiable curiosity about the world, and enjoyed a lifelong passion for reading and travel, as well as many other hobbies and interests. She was predeceased by her parents William and Esther Grubbs. She is survived by her loving husband Bill of Lanark, IL, her children Shana Whitehead of Chicago, IL, Thomas Whitehead of Dolores, CO, and Bethany Whitehead of Chicago, IL, as well as a grandson by daughter Shana, Zachary Parekh, and her sisters Renée Young of Palm Springs, CA, and Lynnette Grubbs of Dallas, TX. Per Tanya's request, cremation rites have been accorded. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date. Please consider donating to The American Association of People with Disabilities in her memory, a cause to which she dedicated her professional life. Farrell-Holland-Gale Funeral Homes assisted the family.

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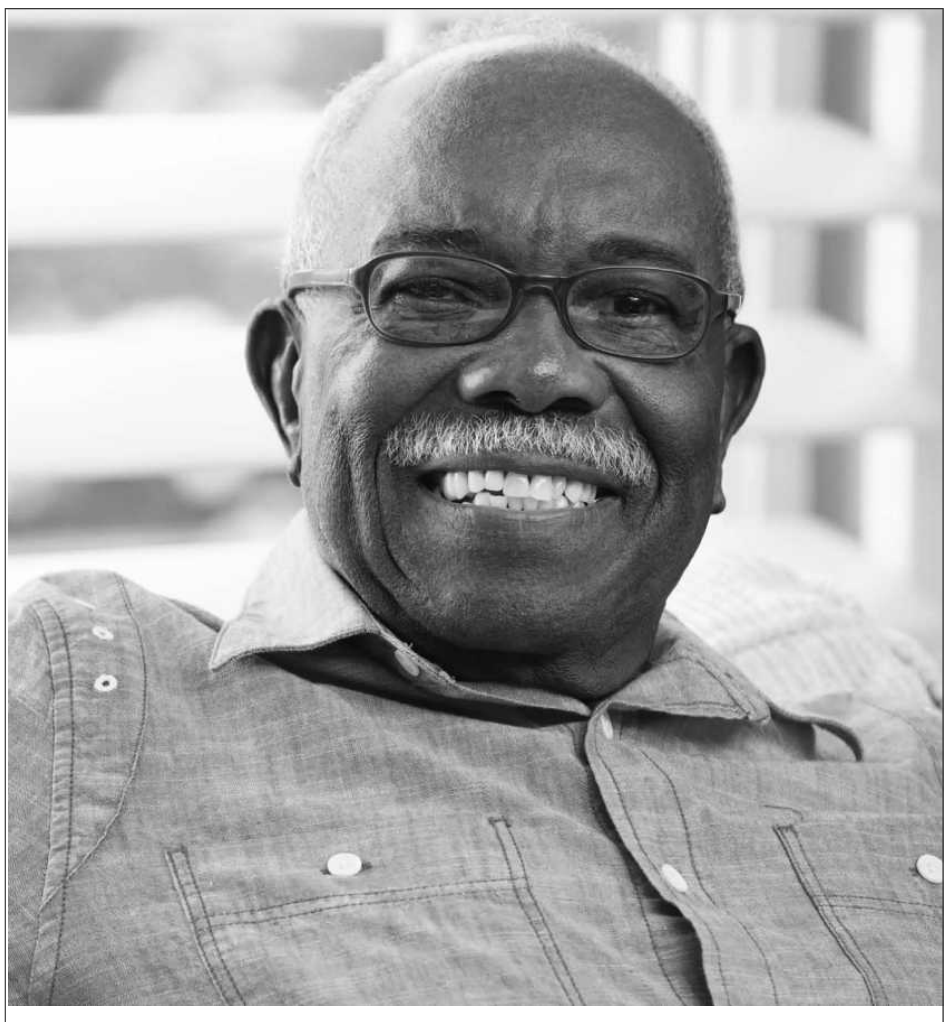

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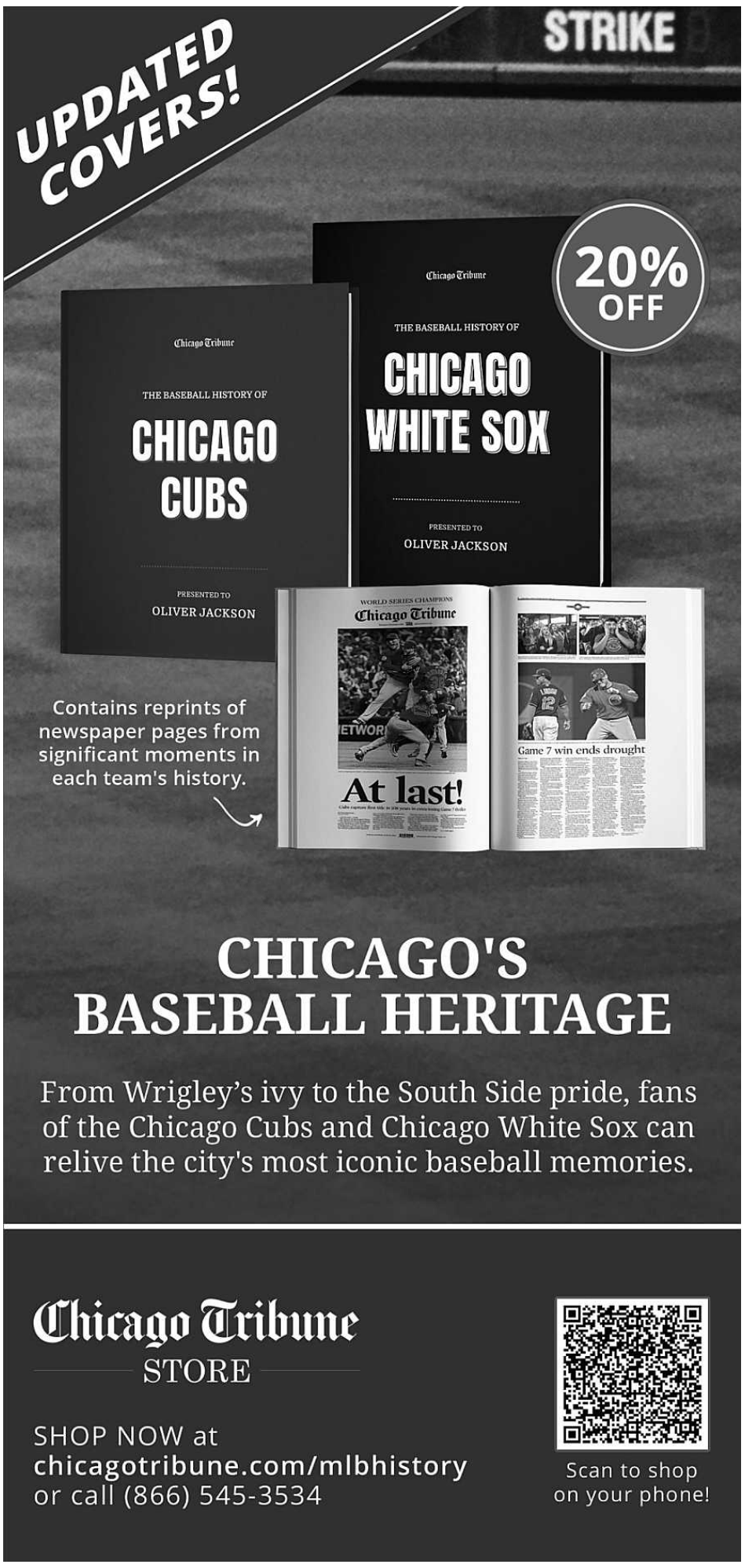
Chicago Tribune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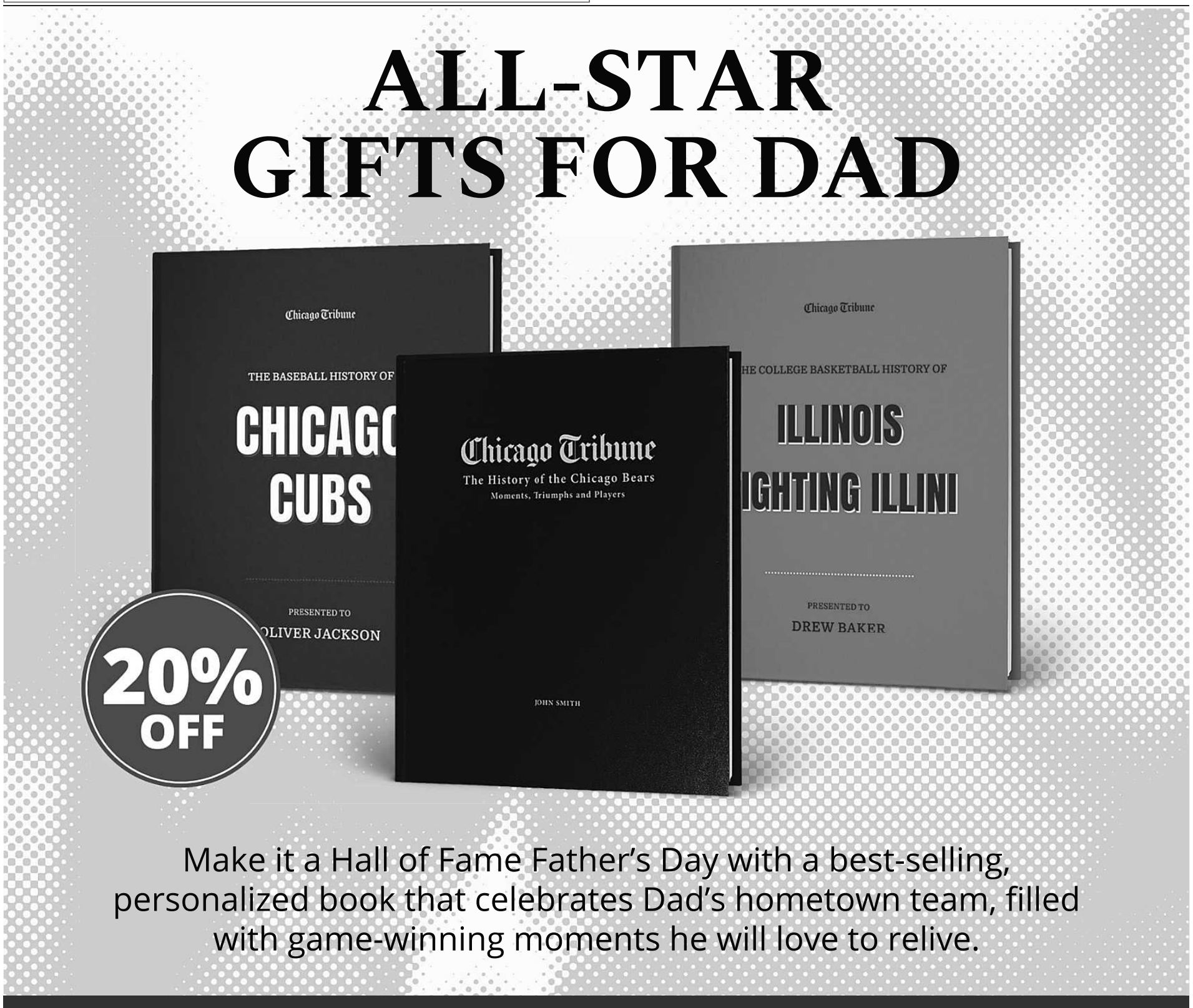

Assigned Name

Notice is hereby given, Pursuant to "An Act in relation To the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in The State" as amended, that a Certification was filed by the Undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook **County.**
File No. M26001693 on the
Date: 05/29/2026
Under the Assumed Name of: **Cakes By Ifft**
with the business located at:
1616 E 50TH PL
APT 4E
CHICAGO, IL 60615, USA
The true name and residence Address of the owner is: **Anna Ifft**
1616 E 50TH PL
APT 4E
CHICAGO, IL 60615, USA

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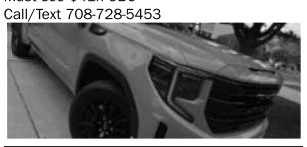

Notice of Public Meeting

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
June 12, 2026
CITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

The Respondent must complete and submit Electronic Information or Response prior to the proposal due date. An electronic proposal or response must be submitted through the City of Chicago's website at www.cityofchicago.org/eprocurement, on or before the due date and time stated below. The City's system will not accept electronic proposals or responses after the due date and time. Respondents must register for a log-in account to submit an electronic proposal or response. Please allow up to three business days for creation of your log-in account. Paper proposals and responses will not be accepted. All Proposals or Responses will be received for the following:

DESCRIPTION: **Request for Information (RFI) for Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance, Repair, and Related Services**
DEPARTMENT: **Department of Fleet and Facility Management (2FM)**
TYPE: **Professional Services**

ELECTRONIC SOLICITATION DOCUMENTS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AND RESPONDED TO FROM THIS URL ADDRESS:
www.cityofchicago.org/eprocurement

SPECIFICATION NO: **1347791**
RFQ NO: **67252**
INFORMATIONAL OPENING DATE: **July 17, 2026**
TIME: **3:00 p.m.**, Central Time
QUESTION DUE DATE: **June 24, 2026**, at **4:00 p.m.**, Central Time

PRE- INFORMATIONAL CONFERENCE: **June 18, 2026**, at **10:00 a.m.**, Central Time via **Microsoft Teams & In person at 2 N. LaSalle Chicago IL 60602, Mezzanine Floor Home Life Insurance Conference Center**. All Attendees must pre-register to participate. Interested Attendees must email: **Patrick Callahan** at **Patrick.Callahan@cityofchicago.org**, Email Subject: Pre-Informational Conference for **RFI for Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance, Repair, and Related Services**

CONTACT: **Patrick Callahan**,
Senior Procurement Specialist
Email: Patrick.Callahan@cityofchicago.org
6/12/2026 87598

Notice of Public Meeting

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
June 12, 2026
CITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

The Bidder must complete and submit an Electronic Bid prior to the bid due date. An electronic bid must be submitted through the City of Chicago's website at www.cityofchicago.org/eprocurement, on or before the due date and time stated below. The City's system will not accept electronic bids after the due date and time. Bidders must register for a log-in account to submit an electronic bid. Please allow up to three business days for creation of your log-in account. Paper bids will not be accepted. All Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud for the following:

DESCRIPTION: **Residential Sound Insulation Program O'Hare Phase 19A**
DEPARTMENT: **Chicago Department of Aviation.**
TYPE: **Aviation – Construction.**

ELECTRONIC BID DOCUMENTS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AND RESPONDED TO FROM THIS URL ADDRESS:
www.cityofchicago.org/eprocurement

SPECIFICATION NO: **1315458A**
RFQ NO: **69303**

BID OPENING DATE: **June 29, 2026, 11:00 AM Central Time.**

QUESTION DUE DATE: **No question due date.**

PRE-BID CONFERENCE:
No pre-bid conference.

CONTACT: **Derrick Knight Jr,**
Senior Procurement Specialist/
Procurement Specialist
Email: Derrick.knightjr@cityofchicago.org

Bid Bond:
Bids requiring a bid deposit must be accompanied by a Bid Bond, provided by a surety company authorized to do business in the United States, and made payable to the City of Chicago. A scanned copy of the bid bond must be attached to the online bid submission, with the original bond to be received by DPS within 3 business days of the bid opening. This is required of all bidders, not just the apparent low bidder.
Any late Bids received after announced date and time, for the opening of Bids, will not be accepted.
6/12/2026 88242

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
JUNE 12, 2026
CITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

The Bidder must complete and submit an Electronic Bid prior to the bid due date. An electronic bid must be submitted through the City of Chicago's website at www.cityofchicago.org/eprocurement, on or before the due date and time stated below. The City's system will not accept electronic bids after the due date and time. Bidders must register for a log-in account to submit an electronic bid. Please allow up to three business days for creation of your log-in account. Paper bids will not be accepted. All Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud for the following:

DESCRIPTION: **CDOT 2026 Job Order Contract for Flatwork (rebid)**
DEPARTMENT: **Chicago Department of Transportation**
TYPE: **Construction**

ELECTRONIC BID DOCUMENTS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AND RESPONDED TO FROM THIS URL ADDRESS:
www.cityofchicago.org/eprocurement

NOTICE OF ADDENDUM: **Addendum # 1 will be e-mailed to all bidders on the Bid Opportunity Take-Out List**

SPECIFICATION NO: **1301245A**
RFQ NO: **67294,1**
BID OPENING DATE: **July 10, 2026**
REVISED BID OPENING DATE: **July 10, 2026, (remained the same) per Addendum 1**
TIME: **11:00 a.m.**, Central Time

CONTACT: **Nancy Peshoff,**
Senior Procurement Specialist
Email: nancy.peshoff@cityofchicago.org

Bid Bond: Bids requiring a bid deposit must be accompanied by a Bid Bond, provided by a surety company authorized to do business in the United States, and made payable to the City of Chicago. A scanned copy of the bid bond must be attached to the online bid submission, with the original bond to be received by DPS within 3 business days of the bid opening. This is required of all bidders, not just the apparent low bidder.
Any late Bids received after announced date and time, for the opening of Bids, will not be accepted.
6/12/2026 88254

Notice of Public Meeting

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will be accepting applications for the following classification(s):

Electrical Mechanic (Original))

Application Filing Period: June 12, 2026 through June 26, 2026. **Examination Date:** July 18, 2026. **Location:** Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences (CHAS), 3857 West 111th Street, Chicago, IL. Scope of **Examination:** Knowledge of Electrical Mechanic practices. **Nature of Position and Duties:** Under supervision, performs skilled manual work in the installation and maintenance of electrical circuits, apparatus, machinery and equipment. **Salary:** $63.15 per hour

Applications can be submitted online **only** at www.districtjobs.org.

Additional information may be found at www.districtjobs.org or call 312-751-5100.

Mailed, Emailed, Hand delivered or Faxed Applications Will Not Be Accepted.
Resumes Will Not Be Accepted In Place of Application Forms.
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6/12-6/26/2026 88228

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
June 12, 2026
CITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

The Respondent must complete and submit an Electronic Proposal prior to the proposal due date. An electronic proposal must be submitted through the City of Chicago's website at www.cityofchicago.org/eprocurement, on or before the due date and time stated below. The City's system will not accept Electronic proposals after the due date and time. Respondents must register for a log-in account to submit an Electronic proposal or response. Please allow up to three business days for creation of your log-in account. A Respondent who does not submit a Proposal for this RFP prior to the Proposal due date and time may be found non-responsive and its Proposal rejected.

DESCRIPTION: **EV Charging Stations**
DEPARTMENT: **Department of Fleet & Facility Management (2FM)**
TYPE: **Professional Services**

ELECTRONIC SOLICITATION DOCUMENTS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AND RESPONDED TO FROM THIS URL ADDRESS:
www.cityofchicago.org/eprocurement

NOTICE OF ADDENDUM: **Postponement Addendum #1 will be e-mailed to all Respondents on the Bid Opportunity Take-Out List.**

SPECIFICATION NO: **1332033**
RFQ NO: **66215, 1**
PROPOSAL OPENING DATE: **June 16, 2026**
REVISED PROPOSAL OPENING DATE: **July 13, 2026, per Addendum #1**
TIME: **3:00 p.m.**, Central Time

CONTACT: **Paula Duarte**,
Senior Procurement Specialist
Email: Paula.Duarte@cityofchicago.org
6/12/2026 88273

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
June 12, 2026
CITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

The Bidder must complete and submit an Electronic Bid prior to the bid due date. An electronic bid must be submitted through the City of Chicago's website at www.cityofchicago.org/eprocurement, on or before the due date and time stated below. The City's system will not accept electronic bids after the due date and time. Bidders must register for a log-in account to submit an electronic bid. Please allow up to three business days for creation of your log-in account. Paper bids will not be accepted. All Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud for the following:

DESCRIPTION: **Shuttle Bus Services for Chicago O'Hare International Airport**
DEPARTMENT: **Chicago Department of Aviation**
TYPE: **Work Service**

ELECTRONIC BID DOCUMENTS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AND PRINTED FROM URL ADDRESS:
www.cityofchicago.org/eprocurement

NOTICE OF ADDENDUM: **Addendum # 1 will be e-mailed/sent to all bidders on the Bid Opportunity Take-Out List**

SPECIFICATION NO: **1275339**
RFQ NO: **67225,1**
ORIGINAL BID OPENING DATE: **June 17, 2026**
REVISED BID OPENING DATE: **July 17, 2026, Per Addendum 1**
TIME: **11:00 a.m., Central Time**

CONTACT: **Thomas Magno,**
Senior Procurement Specialist/
Procurement Specialist
Email: thomas.magno@cityofchicago.org
6/12/2026 88235

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CHICAGO ACCUWEATHER

Meteorologists Larry Mowry, Cheryl Scott, Jaisol Martinez, Tracy Butler and Greg Dutra

ABC7 Outlook: Sunny, breezy and less humid! Highs around 80 degrees.

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Day 81°	Day 87°	Day 72°	Day 75°	Day 77°	Day 76°
Night 64°	Night 61°	Night 57°	Night 55°	Night 59°	Night 63°
Mostly sunny, breezy and less humid	Breezy in the p.m.; t-storms at night	Clouds breaking and breezy at times	Mostly sunny with a shower possible	A couple of showers possible	A couple of morning showers
Winds: W 10-20 mph	**Winds:** SW 8-16 mph	**Winds:** NW 10-20 mph	**Winds:** W 7-14 mph	**Winds:** WSW 7-14 mph	**Winds:** SW 7-14 mph
POP: 0%	**POP: 25%**	**POP: 25%**	**POP: 30%**	**POP: 30%**	**POP: 60%**

Chicago forecast

Friday Conditions

	8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.	8 p.m.
AccuWeather.com UV Index™	2	5	9	9	5	2	0
RealFeel Temperature®	65°	72°	79°	81°	82°	78°	78°

Friday Activities

	8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.	8 p.m.
Golfing Index	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Fishing Index	2	4	6	6	6	6	6

The higher the **AccuWeather.com UV Index** number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. **0-2** Low, **3-5** Moderate, **6-7** High, **8-10** Very High, **11+** Extreme. The patented **AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature** is an exclusive index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors. **Golf and Fishing Indexes: 0-2**: Poor; **3-4**: Fair; **5-6**: Good; **7-8**: Very Good; **9-10**: Excellent.

Chicago almanac

Thursday temperatures

O'Hare through 4 p.m.

	Average	Record
Thursday high: **82°**	79°	97° (1954)
Thursday low: **66°**	60°	41° (1980)

Local temperatures

through 6 p.m. Thursday

Location	High	Low	Average High	Average Low
Aurora	82°	65°	81°	58°
Gary	86°	66°	79°	59°
Kankakee	82°	65°	81°	60°
Lansing	81°	64°	79°	58°
Midway	82°	67°	80°	61°
Romeoville	79°	66°	81°	59°
Valparaiso	81°	65°	81°	60°
Waukegan	81°	65°	75°	55°

Thursday Precipitation

	2026	2025	Normal
Thursday*	0.93"	0.00"	0.15"
Month to date	1.62"	0.75"	1.55"
Year to date	17.21"	10.22"	16.20"

*24-hour period ending 4 p.m. Thursday

Pollen as of 6/10

Trees	Grass	Weeds	Mold
Low	Moderate	Low	High

Source: Loyola Medicine via NAB

Air Quality Index

Thursday's reading: **Moderate**

Friday's forecast: **Moderate**

Primary pollutant: **Ozone**

Source: AirNow.gov

Cosmos

Sun and moon

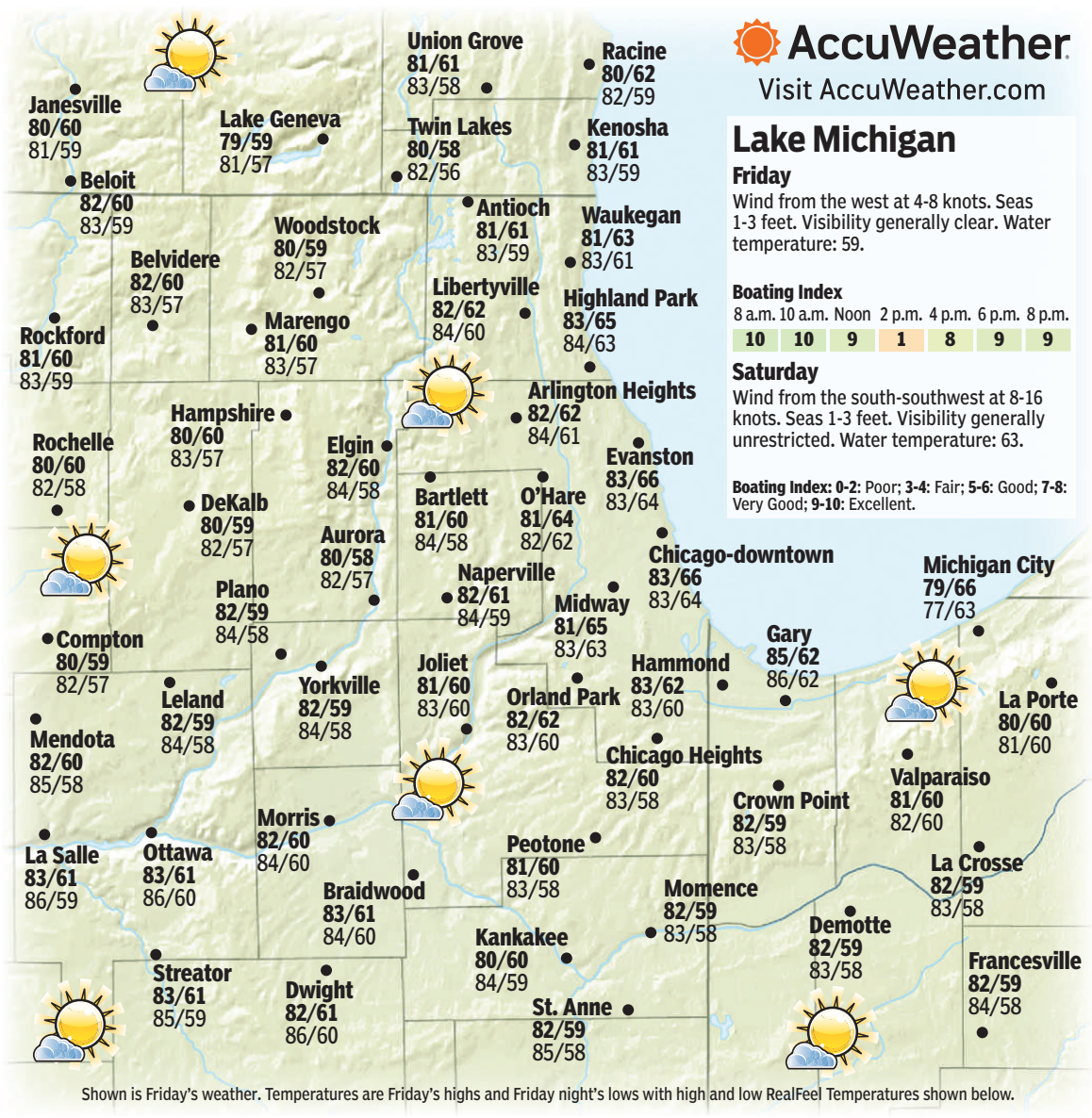
	Fri.	Sat.
Sunrise	5:15 a.m.	5:15 a.m.
Sunset	8:26 p.m.	8:27 p.m.
Moonrise	2:44 a.m.	3:23 a.m.
Moonset	6:02 p.m.	7:24 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Jun 14	Jun 21	Jun 29	Jul 7

Friday's Planet Watch

	Rise	Set
Mercury	6:59 a.m.	10:14 p.m.
Venus	8:04 a.m.	11:03 p.m.
Mars	3:25 a.m.	5:37 p.m.
Jupiter	7:55 a.m.	10:45 p.m.
Saturn	2:05 a.m.	2:33 p.m.

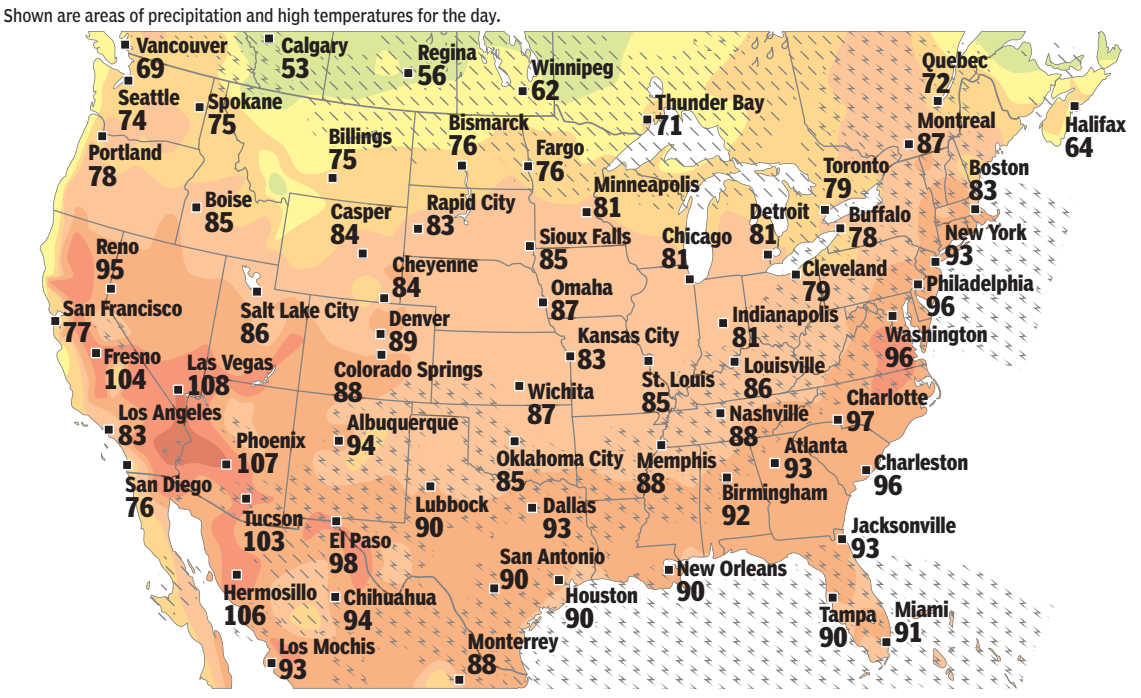
Best viewing times today: Venus: 8:55 p.m. Mars: 4:45 a.m. Jupiter: 8:55 p.m. Saturn: 4:45 a.m. Mercury: 8:55 p.m.



Shown is Friday's weather. Temperatures are Friday's highs and Friday night's lows with high and low RealFeel Temperatures shown below.

National forecast

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.



AccuWeather

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Lake Michigan

Friday

Wind from the west at 4-8 knots. Seas 1-3 feet. Visibility generally clear. Water temperature: 59.

Boating Index

8 a.m.	10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.	6 p.m.	8 p.m.
10	10	9	1	8	9	9

Saturday

Wind from the south-southwest at 8-16 knots. Seas 1-3 feet. Visibility generally unrestricted. Water temperature: 63.

Boating Index: 0-2: Poor; **3-4**: Fair; **5-6**: Good; **7-8**: Very Good; **9-10**: Excellent.

ASK abc7

Larry Mowry

Question: What is the heat index? Is it a temperature reading?

Answer: The heat index is a measure of how it really feels when humidity is factored into the actual air temperature. It is more a value of what it feels like. Here's an important note. Heat index values were devised for shady, light wind conditions. Exposure to full sunshine can increase the real feel by up to 15 degrees. Keep that in mind when I show a heat index of 100 degrees on my map, it could feel more like 115 degrees if you were in full sunshine.

Do you have a weather question for the ABC 7 team? Submit them at **abc7chicago.com/weather** or send them to:

Ask ABC 7 Weather Team
190 N. State Street
Chicago, IL 60601

Regional cities

City	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Illinois		
Carbondale	85/62/pc	83/70/t
Champaign	82/60/s	82/64/pc
Decatur	82/61/s	81/66/t
Moline	82/63/s	84/59/t
Peoria	81/61/s	84/60/pc
Quincy	81/64/s	78/60/t
Rockford	81/60/s	84/57/t
Springfield	82/62/s	79/63/t
Sterling	83/60/s	86/59/t
Indiana		
Bloomington	81/59/s	83/66/pc
Evansville	85/62/t	86/68/pc
Fort Wayne	81/59/s	86/65/pc
Indianapolis	81/62/s	82/66/s
Lafayette	80/58/s	84/65/s
South Bend	79/60/s	86/61/pc
Wisconsin		
Green Bay	79/61/s	77/54/t
Kenosha	81/61/s	87/58/pc
La Crosse	80/63/s	78/53/t
Madison	79/62/s	81/52/t
Milwaukee	80/64/s	83/57/t
Wausau	75/59/s	73/48/t
Michigan		
Detroit	81/60/pc	87/66/s
Grand Rapids	76/60/pc	83/58/t
Marquette	72/55/sh	68/46/t
Sault Ste. Marie	71/55/sh	69/49/sh
Traverse City	77/61/s	77/54/t
Iowa		
Ames	83/61/s	78/54/t
Cedar Rapids	81/61/s	80/54/t
Des Moines	83/63/s	76/51/t
Dubuque	78/61/s	79/52/t

National cities

City	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Abilene	94/74/t	95/75/pc
Albany, NY	92/62/t	85/62/s
Albuquerque	94/68/t	95/65/pc
Amarillo	89/69/c	97/60/t
Anchorage	66/51/pc	63/52/c
Asheville	90/67/t	86/66/t
Aspen	81/45/s	82/49/pc
Atlanta	93/75/s	91/76/t
Atlantic City	89/70/t	87/67/s
Austin	92/74/t	91/74/t
Baltimore	96/67/t	89/66/s
Billings	75/48/s	63/43/sh
Birmingham	92/73/t	91/72/t
Bismarck	76/49/s	63/44/pc
Boise	85/51/s	84/54/s
Boston	83/69/t	86/67/pc
Brownsville	92/79/t	90/79/t
Buffalo	78/62/t	78/68/s
Burlington, VT	92/59/t	87/63/s
Charleston, SC	96/76/t	96/77/t
Charleston, WV	85/60/t	85/62/pc
Charlotte	97/74/t	94/72/t
Chattanooga	91/72/t	90/72/t
Cheyenne	84/47/s	65/43/pc
Cincinnati	81/60/s	85/68/pc
Cleveland	79/60/pc	85/69/pc
Colorado Spgs	88/57/s	80/50/c
Columbia, MO	82/65/s	78/64/t
Columbia, SC	99/75/s	95/75/t
Columbus, OH	83/59/s	85/67/s
Concord	88/64/t	88/57/s
Corpus Christi	91/77/t	89/79/t
Dallas	93/77/t	94/78/pc
Daytona Beach	89/74/t	92/74/t
Denver	89/52/s	77/50/pc
Duluth	71/52/sh	65/47/pc
El Paso	98/75/t	100/78/t
Fairbanks	72/51/pc	78/52/c
Fargo	76/51/sh	66/49/c
Flagstaff	85/54/pc	80/49/pc
Fort Myers	92/76/t	91/77/t
Fort Smith	88/75/t	91/74/t
Fresno	104/71/s	103/70/s
Grand Junction	95/60/s	98/64/s
Great Falls	63/42/t	62/38/sh
Harrisburg	93/64/t	88/65/s
Hartford	94/65/t	89/60/s
Helena, MT	73/45/s	63/39/sh
Honolulu	87/70/s	85/72/pc
Houston	90/76/t	92/78/t
Int'l Falls	65/47/sh	55/43/sh
Jackson, MS	93/75/t	93/75/t
Jacksonville	93/75/c	96/75/t
Juneau	66/49/pc	58/51/sh
Kansas City	83/66/s	80/58/t
Las Vegas	108/84/s	109/84/s
Lexington	83/59/t	86/68/pc
Lincoln	86/64/s	78/53/t
Little Rock	87/75/t	90/74/t
Los Angeles	83/64/s	81/64/s
Louisville	86/63/t	88/71/c
Macon	94/71/pc	94/71/t
Memphis	88/75/t	93/75/t
Miami	91/76/t	91/76/t
Minneapolis	81/61/s	73/53/pc
Mobile	91/74/c	92/73/t
Montgomery	93/73/pc	92/71/t
Nashville	88/65/t	93/74/pc
New Orleans	90/76/t	91/77/t
New York City	93/70/t	89/71/s
Norfolk	97/75/t	85/69/s
Oklahoma City	85/73/t	94/69/t
Omaha	87/65/s	78/53/t
Orlando	92/75/t	94/75/t
Palm Beach	90/76/t	89/78/t
Palm Springs	108/82/pc	110/82/s
Philadelphia	96/71/t	90/70/s
Phoenix	107/87/pc	109/88/pc
Pittsburgh	81/60/t	83/63/s
Portland, ME	73/59/t	82/58/pc
Portland, OR	78/54/s	89/60/s
Providence	89/69/t	90/64/s
Raleigh	102/75/t	96/74/t
Rapid City	83/50/s	67/44/sh
Reno	95/61/s	93/62/s
Richmond	99/71/t	90/68/s
Rochester	81/61/t	82/66/pc
Sacramento	101/58/s	97/57/s
St. Louis	85/68/s	81/66/t
Salem, OR	81/52/s	92/59/s
Salt Lake City	86/59/s	85/58/s
San Antonio	90/75/t	91/77/t
San Diego	76/66/pc	76/66/pc
San Francisco	77/56/s	74/58/pc
San Juan	90/78/c	91/78/pc
Santa Fe	95/75/t	97/75/t
Savannah	95/75/t	97/75/t
Seattle	74/54/pc	81/60/s
Shreveport	94/76/t	97/78/t
Sioux Falls	85/57/pc	73/48/s
Spokane	75/51/pc	78/55/s
Syracuse	84/57/t	82/64/s
Tallahassee	94/74/pc	96/73/t
Tampa	90/77/t	90/78/t
Topeka	85/67/s	82/60/t
Tucson	103/78/pc	104/79/pc
Tulsa	87/76/c	91/68/t
Washington, DC	96/69/t	87/68/s
Wichita	87/73/c	94/62/t
Wilkes-Barre	89/59/t	89/60/s
Yuma	105/84/pc	108/85/s

World cities

City	Fri. Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Acapulco	90/76/s	90/75/s
Algiers	80/60/s	82/63/s
Amsterdam	67/58/r	63/56/sh
Ankara	83/55/s	72/55/t
Athens	88/68/pc	81/62/sh
Auckland	61/45/pc	60/46/pc
Baghdad	108/82/pc	106/83/s
Bangkok	93/80/r	97/80/r
Barbados	87/79/c	86/79/pc
Barcelona	79/68/s	83/68/s
Beijing	90/65/pc	78/66/t
Beirut	82/71/s	82/71/s
Berlin	67/56/r	70/52/sh
Bermuda	79/74/pc	80/73/pc
Bogota	68/51/r	66/51/r
Brussels	66/57/sh	68/53/pc
Bucharest	69/56/r	77/56/c
Budapest	74/55/s	77/58/pc
Buenos Aires	60/50/pc	59/39/sh
Cairo	93/73/pc	95/73/pc
Cancun	86/80/t	89/78/r
Caracas	91/76/c	92/75/pc
Casablanca	90/65/s	87/64/s
Copenhagen	63/53/r	61/51/r
Dublin	65/50/pc	67/46/pc
Edmonton	60/41/sh	68/43/pc
Frankfurt	69/59/sh	76/52/s
Geneva	77/52/s	84/53/pc
Guadalajara	85/65/t	81/63/t
Havana	87/73/r	92/73/r
Helsinki	65/47/c	63/48/sh
Hong Kong	86/81/r	88/82/r
Istanbul	83/67/s	72/62/sh
Jerusalem	83/63/s	81/64/s
Johannesburg	71/43/pc	73/42/pc
Kabul	85/60/pc	82/62/pc
Kingston	91/81/pc	90/81/pc
Kyiv	78/55/pc	70/55/pc
Lima	76/68/c	76/68/c
Lisbon	93/70/pc	90/65/pc
London	71/55/c	72/53/pc
Madrid	94/63/s	95/64/pc
Manila	97/81/t	96/80/t
Mexico City	76/57/r	75/59/r
Monterrey	88/69/t	88/69/pc
Montreal	87/62/t	80/65/sh
Moscow	87/64/pc	82/57/sh
Munich	61/55/r	77/53/sh
Nairobi	74/58/r	73/59/c
Nassau	88/77/t	87/76/s
New Delhi	93/80/t	100/82/s
Oslo	62/52/sh	61/52/sh
Ottawa	83/57/t	81/61/sh
Panama City	93/77/t	91/77/t
Paris	78/57/c	80/54/pc
Prague	61/55/sh	71/49/sh
Rio de Janeiro	78/70/pc	77/68/pc
Riyadh	112/83/s	111/83/s
Rome	87/62/pc	84/59/s
Santiago	66/46/c	63/38/c
Seoul	81/60/s	88/67/pc
Singapore	88/80/sh	91/80/t
Sofia	64/49/sh	71/51/pc
Stockholm	67/49/s	60/49/sh
Sydney	68/55/pc	71/60/pc
Taipei	77/73/r	84/74/r
Tehran	99/78/pc	98/75/pc
Tokyo	78/67/sh	80/69/pc
Toronto	79/62/pc	82/68/sh
Trinidad	87/78/pc	87/77/pc
Vancouver	69/55/pc	74/57/s
Vienna	68/58/pc	78/59/sh
Warsaw	67/51/sh	68/51/sh
Winnipeg	62/46/sh	57/45/sh

Weather(W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **r**-rain, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice. **POP**: Probability of Precipitation.

Forecasts and graphics, except for the WLS-TV/ABC7 Chicago content, provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2026

NORTHWESTERN HOSPITAL

Making case for cancer complex

Officials meet with Streeterville residents to address concerns

By Brian J. Rogal
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Northwestern Memorial Hospital officials met with Streeterville residents Wednesday night and said they have worked to address concerns about the hospital's proposal to build a 1.2 million-square-foot tower on a vacant lot.

Northwestern plans to start excavating the site later this year but still needs several state and city approvals before launching construction, most likely in 2027. The community's support helps clear the way for the 23-story building, where the hospital will care for cancer patients.

"I haven't had any community feedback saying please don't build this building," said Ald. Brian Hopkins, 2nd, who hosted the meeting along with Streeterville Organization of Active Residents. "It's been a very strong response from Streeterville residents who have said, 'We are neighbors of this healthcare campus.'"

Northwestern is planning a 23-story building in Streeterville where the hospital will care for cancer patients. Excavation of the site is expected to start later this year. NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE

At a community meeting last summer, many neighbors mourned the impending loss of the vacant lot, just across the street from Northwestern Memorial's Feinberg Pavilion and bordered by Fairbanks Court, Huron Street, McClurg Court and Erie Street. The tree-lined parcel of more than 3 acres, once home to the now-demolished Lakeside VA hospital, is one of the neighborhood's few open and green spaces.

Hospital officials said the original plan was to excavate the entire site. But after last summer's meeting they decided to preserve the eastern third, which is adjacent to 680 North Lake Shore Drive, a residential and medical office building.

"We heard loud and clear that the community wanted this to remain free and clear as green space," said Charles Cloutier, Northwestern Medicine's project vice president for planning and construction. "We want to be good neighbors."

Cloutier said the hospital also tried to address concerns about possible traffic congestion around the new cancer center. Drivers dropping off patients or visitors will be able to access the four-story underground parking facility without going back out on the street. The hospital also reached an agreement with the Chicago Department of Transportation to make exiting the facility easier by allowing traffic on a portion of Huron Street to go both ways.

"We didn't want to force all the traffic from the building onto Fairbanks," Cloutier said. "The (traffic from the) building is only going to add a few seconds to getting through these intersections even at peak times."

Northwestern also plans to use fritted glass on the building's lower floors to reduce deadly bird strikes, he added. Environmental advocates frequently press Chicago property owners to include this feature, especially for lakefront buildings likely to attract migratory birds.

"I've lived through a lot of high-rises going up," said a longtime resident of 680 North Lake Shore Drive. "I appreciate you took a lot of the neighborhood feedback."

The project is part of a multiyear campus transformation, Cloutier said. The hospital also plans to add 11 new operating rooms and dozens of inpatient beds to other campus buildings by 2028. It will complete the new tower by 2031 and reserve it mostly for cancer patients, who now receive treatment in numerous buildings across Streeterville.

The new building will include skybridges over Fairbanks Court and Erie Street connecting it to the neighboring Feinberg Pavilion and the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, along with several rooftop gardens.

Cloutier warned neighbors that before starting construction, excavators will need to dig out the old foundation of the Lakeside VA. It's a big job and could take 12 months, but the hospital will closely monitor the noise and dust coming from the site.

"I'm going to be upfront, we're going to be working a lot of Saturdays," he said.

Hopkins said he plans to hold more community meetings as the project moves forward.

"There is still an opportunity to get your hands in this," he said. "Especially the people in 680 (North Lake Shore Drive), because it's in your backyard."

BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Nurses strike for a day

Imari Prieto, a nurse at St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital, rallies with colleagues and supporters during a one-day strike Thursday in Chicago's Ukrainian Village neighborhood. The nurses are protesting what they say is management's retaliation before a union election.

Grove Coffee puts down roots in Oak Lawn

By Janice Neumann
FOR THE DAILY SOUTHTOWN

After he finished his addiction treatment in rehab, Victor Colin Jr. faced an uphill battle to regain people's' trust.

But Daniel Stidham, the owner and president of Grove Coffee Shop in Oak Lawn, which opened last year, welcomed him in. Now, Collins is the shop's assistant manager.

"He was really happy I took that step," Colin said. "It was refreshing to be trusted again."

It's that kind of welcoming acceptance that Stidham, who also is also pastor of Calvary Church of Oak Lawn, has made a hallmark of his coffee shop. His goal is for every employee and customer who walks through the door to feel important and at home, that they are comfortable staying for a while and talking to employees and other customers.

There's a kid's space, too, so families know they're welcome. Customers with dogs are welcome too — as long as the canines behave.

Stidham likens those connections to a wooded grove, hence the coffee shop's name. One wall of the shop also features a group of painted trees.

"A grove is literally a collection of trees that have grown close together and their root systems intertwine," said Stidham. "When they're intertwined, they're more resilient in storms. That's true for people, too."

Stidham also mentors Richards High School students through Forward Mentoring in Oak Lawn, where he is the executive director. He offers scholarships to students once they complete four years of mentoring. Another goal of Grove, which Stidham owns with three minority partners, is to pay employees a living wage.

"If the owners aren't looking to become independently wealthy, they can be a lot more generous," Stidham said. "You take care of your employees and they'll take care of the community."

It's another way to show employees how important they are, he said.

"I believe the divine power is nearest those who serve," Stidham said, explaining he wanted the baristas to know how powerful they were. "I believe Jesus came to serve. The people walking in I believe are all made in the image of God," he said.

That attitude makes for good relationships between workers and customers.

"The thing I like the most is getting to know everybody," said Colin. "About 75% of the customers are regular."

For barista Elizabeth West, the shop has a giving environment.

Grove Coffee assistant manager Victor Colin Jr., left, and owner Daniel Stidham gather recently at the coffee shop in Oak Lawn, a place they want to be a welcoming spot that helps bring the community together. JANICE NEUMANN/DAILY SOUTHTOWN

"I think it's amazing what he (Stidham) wants to do," she said. "I love the people who come in and the co-workers."

It took several years to find just the right building and location for the coffee shop, which had its grand opening in October 2025. Stidham wanted it to be in a prominent Oak Lawn location and chose a storefront at 4736 W. 103rd St., a former salon.

More than just serving coffee, it was a place Stidham said he could foster community.

"What if our mission was to interrupt cycles or poverty, both relational and financial," he said. "Relational in that people are living alone with fewer friends and less community and going through drive-thrus for everything. I was told we wouldn't survive without a drive thru.

Janice Neumann is a freelance reporter for the Daily Southtown.

Lockout continues at refinery in Whiting

Unsuccessful return to contract negotiations between BP and USW

By Maya Wilkins
POST-TRIBUNE

United Steelworkers Local 7-1 workers will have to spend more time without work at the BP Whiting refinery after an unsuccessful return to negotiations Wednesday.

However, union members are prepared to continue picketing outside the refinery.

"I hope we're going back soon, but they keep stalling," said Steven Kallies, a union member who's worked at BP for 17 years. "It's all a horse and pony show, I believe. They have no intention of giving us a fair contract."

The company announced in a Wednesday morning update that the parties held their 63rd formal bargaining session for a labor agreement. Wednesday's bargaining session was the first since May 22, according to Post-Tribune archives.

Negotiations began on Jan. 5, and the previous contract expired on Jan. 31. BP initiated a lockout of about 800 union employees on March 19, which has stayed in place for nearly three months as negotiations have continued.

According to BP's website, about 450 employees and "specialized contractors" are operating the refinery during the lockout. Refinery officials claim in updates that the facility continues to "operate safely, reliably, and compliantly," without impact to operations, despite relying on replacement workers.

BP's Wednesday update — which came before noon — said the company and union remain far apart "on proposals that are critical to the refinery." A deal would result in a return to work for union employees.

"We remain committed to engaging in good faith bargaining toward a fair and sustainable agreement that supports employees, the refinery, and the Northwest Indiana community," the update said.

According to Post-Tribune archives, previous negotiations have stalled after USW leadership asked BP to end the lockout without requiring an acceptance of its March 17 contract proposal, a request that BP has declined.

BP's updates say its offer withdraws a previous company proposal that would have led to a voluntary reduction of up to 42 maintenance craft employees, includes a discretionary annual cash bonus for those who meet defined criteria, an average 13% pay increase over the first four years of its proposed six-year contract. Pay increases for the last two years will be equivalent to increases from the National Oil Bargaining Program in 2030, and union employees would receive a

See TALKS on Page B2

‘Outstanding issues’ delay Canada-US bridge opening

Carney downplays drama as Lutnick pushback reported

By Joey Cappelletti
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The opening of a Canadian-U.S. bridge across the Detroit River that President Donald Trump previously threatened to block was delayed Thursday due to unresolved issues.

In a statement released before a scheduled Friday ribbon-cutting ceremony at the bridge, the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority said “Canada and the United States have agreed to delay the opening of the bridge, taking the necessary time to resolve any outstanding issues.”

It didn’t elaborate on what those are.

The Gordie Howe International Bridge, jointly owned by Canada and Michigan, was expected to open to traffic later this month. But the opening had been thrown into question after Trump in February demanded in a social media post that Canada turn over at least half of the bridge’s ownership to the U.S. federal government and agree to other unspecified demands in one of the Republican president’s many salvos over cross-border trade issues.

Michigan officials and the White House had been in contact for months about the bridge after Trump’s post, with the understanding that the opening would move forward Friday.

But internal disagreements within the Trump administration threw those plans into question, as Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick pushed back on the opening, according to two people with knowledge of the matter who insisted on anonymity to discuss the private talks.

The White House did not immediately return a request for comment Thursday.

Even with the delay, U.S. and Canadian officials remained optimistic that the bridge — a roughly $4.4 billion project — is still expected to open.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney hinted Wednesday that the opening could be delayed, while downplaying any concerns.

“There is no big drama. If it takes a little longer, it will take a little bit longer, but this will benefit Canadians, Americans, business, tourists, residents for decades and decades to come,” Carney said on his way into Parliament in Ottawa.

Invitations for the bridge’s opening went out this week following a conversation between Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, and White House chief of staff Susie Wiles.

“This project is a powerful example of bipartisan and international cooperation, and the governor looks forward to attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony when it happens,” a statement from Whitmer spokesperson Bobby Leddy said.

The 1.5-mile-long bridge, which connects Windsor, Ontario, and Detroit, would be a vital economic artery between Canada and the United States. It is named after the late Canadian hockey great, who spent 25 seasons with the Detroit Red Wings.

The construction project was negotiated by Rick Snyder, the former Republican governor of Michigan, and paid for by Canada to help ease congestion at the existing Ambassador Bridge and the Detroit-Windsor tunnel.

Work has been underway since 2018.

Billionaire’s Mark Zuckerberg of Meta, left, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, center, with wife Lauren Sánchez, and Google CEO Sundar Pichai attend President Donald Trump’s inauguration in January 2025. **KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Billionaires’ wealth up 40%

Economist’s stunning figures reflect rapid accumulation at global financial ladder’s peak

By Patricia Cohen
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON — Fifteen years ago, the world’s billionaires collectively had $4.5 trillion. By 2024, their wealth had more than tripled to $14.2 trillion.

Now their combined wealth totals $20.1 trillion — an amount equivalent to nearly a fifth of the world’s total yearly output.

The stunning figures — calculated by French economist Gabriel Zucman, director of the International Tax Observatory, a research organization funded by the European Union — reveal more than a surprisingly rapid increase in the concentration of wealth at the top.

These developments are particularly prominent in the United States, where roughly one-third of the world’s nearly 3,000 billionaires reside — and perhaps the first trillionaire, Elon Musk, depending on how the initial public offering of his rocket and satellite company, SpaceX, goes Friday.

Their rising wealth, a 40% increase in just two years, has coincided with significant changes to U.S. tax laws over the last decade that largely benefited the country’s richest families and stockholders, and led to an increase in their political influence.

One reason for the surge of growth at the peak of the wealth ladder is the boom in artificial intelligence, which has funneled trillions of dollars of capital investment into a small clutch of tech companies. Nvidia, Apple, Microsoft, Alphabet, Meta and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp., for example, are each worth more than $1 trillion. Their founders and early investors have reaped most of the financial gain.

SpaceX’s public offering is set to be the biggest in history. The anticipated Day 1 valuation of the company, whose shares are expected to begin trading Friday, aims for $1.77 trillion. With 42% of the stock, Musk is poised to become an instant trillionaire.

Only 21 countries in the world have economies able to produce enough annual output to reach the trillion-dollar mark.

Yes, many ordinary Americans have a stake in stock prices if they have a 401(k) retirement plan. And those nest eggs will help pay for housing, food, car, gas, electric and other bills when they stop working.

But it’s the top 1% of Americans who own half of all stock, according to data from the Federal Reserve. The top 0.1% of Americans — a group of about 135,000 households — own stocks that total $13.7 trillion. That is nearly double the $7.1 trillion owned by the bottom 90% of Americans, a group of about 115 million households.

The rise of billionaires is accelerating at the same time that workers are getting a smaller share of the wealth that national economies are creating.

Financial assets have traditionally brought home bigger returns than a weekly paycheck. But since the early 2000s, the gap between the two has been growing.

In the United States, changes in the tax laws over the past 10 years have steered more benefits to the wealthiest sliver of households, reducing the amount of taxes they have to pay. Also a drastic reduction in the corporate tax rate has supercharged the wealth of the ultrarich.

The reduction in taxes owed by corporations and the wealthy increases the tax burden on workers. It also reduces the public revenue available to pay for health, education, defense, infrastructure and other public benefits at a time when governments are in deep debt.

TALKS

from Page B1

one-time lump sum payment after ratification, ranging between $2,500 and $10,000.

“British Petroleum returned to the table today with continued demands that we agree to eliminate dozens of local jobs and force hundreds more to take pay cuts, while all of us give up bargaining and seniority rights. That’s not bargaining in good faith,” the union said in a Wednesday statement provided to the Post-Tribune.

According to Post-Tribune archives, the union has tried to get the company to adopt the National Oil Bargaining Program that covers more than 30,000 USW oil workers in more than 200 bargaining units.

The union has previously argued that BP’s 13% pay increase would come after most job classifications would see pay cuts. The discretionary bonus would be about half of its current amount, and the lump-sum payment would come after USW agrees to eliminate dozens of local jobs, take pay cuts and give up bargaining and seniority rights, according to a previous statement.

Kallies said he applied for unemployment during the lockout, which went through on May 28. Since he was a USW member during the union’s 2015 strike, Kallies said his family saved money ahead of the lockout, which he said has lessened the economic strain. The union hall has also helped employees with bills through its strike and defense fund, he added. Kallies believes that people are doing better economically than they had originally expected.

“I haven’t really heard of anybody struggling at all,” Kallies said, “which is a good thing.”

Kallies picketed outside the Whiting refinery on Indianapolis Boulevard from about 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday. He said employees are scheduled to picket in four-hour shifts. He believes the company has no intention to allow employees back to work.

He’s felt like this since the beginning of negotiations, Kallies said. He feels that the company’s proposals would “completely gut the union,” give them no bargaining rights and cut their pay.

“We were negotiating, but they weren’t coming off any of their proposals,” Kallies added. “They’re not compromising, and they’re not working with us. ... They keep saying they want to be competitive. You want to be competitive? Then give me a fair contract.”

For more information on BP’s proposal, visit whitingnegotiations.com. USW 7-1 also has a website, supportoilworkers.com, for negotiation updates.

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Energy costs fueling spike of producer price index

By Paul Wiseman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — U.S. producer prices climbed last month at the fastest pace since November 2022, fueled by a surge in energy prices after the start of the Iran war Feb. 28.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that its producer price index, which captures inflation before it reaches consumers, jumped 6.5% from May 2025. It rose 1.1% from April, as it did from March. Wholesale gasoline prices surged by more than 23% from April to May, and nearly 70% from a year earlier.

Inflationary pressures, intensified by the energy shock caused by the Iran war, are frustrating Americans five months before midterm elections that will determine whether President Donald Trump’s Republicans keep full control of Congress.

Gasoline prices have been falling in recent days, but the cost of a gallon of regular gasoline has been above $4 since March, according to the motor club AAA. And the U.S. driving season, which pushes prices higher each year, has just begun.

Excluding volatile food and energy prices, so-called core wholesale prices rose 0.4% from April and 4.9% from May 2025.

The wholesale inflation numbers came out a day after the Labor Department reported that consumer prices rose 4.2% in May from a year earlier, most in three years. Gasoline prices were up nearly 41% from May 2025. Airfares were up almost 27%.

Inflation is running well ahead of the Federal Reserve’s 2% target. The central bank is expected to leave its benchmark interest rate unchanged at its meeting next week. But financial markets expect the Fed could raise rates by the end of the year in an effort to curb price increases.

Wholesale prices can offer an early look at where consumer inflation might be headed.

Business briefs

WORLD BANK CUTS FORECAST FOR GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

WASHINGTON — The economic fallout from the Iran war — higher energy prices and increased uncertainty — will drag down global growth this year, the World Bank said Thursday.

The 189-country anti-poverty agency expects the world economy to grow 2.5% this year, its weakest performance since the COVID-19 pandemic upended global commerce six years ago.

The bank downgraded its forecast for growth in two-thirds of the world’s countries. But the United States is being spared a downgrade. The World Bank expects the world’s biggest economy to grow 2.2% this year, unchanged from a January forecast.

The agency is slashing its growth forecast for developing and emerging market countries by 0.4 percentage points to a post-pandemic low of 3.6%. — *Associated Press*

30-YEAR MORTGAGE RATE RISES TO JUST BELOW HIGH FOR YEAR

The average long-term U.S. mortgage rate ticked up this week to just below its high for the year, the latest sign that borrowing costs on home loans remain elevated relative to where they were before the war with Iran started Feb. 28.

The benchmark 30-year fixed rate mortgage rate rose to 6.52% from 6.48% last week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday. Despite the increase, the average rate remains below 6.84%, where it was a year ago, Freddie Mac said.

When mortgage rates rise, they can add hundreds of dollars a month in costs for borrowers, reducing their purchasing power.

Meanwhile, borrowing costs on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages also increased. That average rate rose to 5.84% from 5.79% last week. A year ago, it was at 5.97%, Freddie Mac said. — *Associated Press*

FILINGS FOR JOBLESS AID IN US CLIMBED TO 229K LAST WEEK

U.S. applications for jobless aid rose modestly last week but remain at a historically low level despite economic headwinds brought on by the war in Iran.

The number of Americans filing for unemployment aid for the week ending June 6 rose by 4,000 to 229,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday.

That’s the most since early February, before the U.S. and Israel launched attacks on Iran, but still considered a healthy level. It’s also more than the 216,000 new applications forecast by analysts surveyed by the data firm FactSet.

Weekly filings for unemployment benefits are considered a proxy for U.S. layoffs and are close to a real-time indicator of the health of the job market.

The unemployment rate remains historically low at 4.3%. — *Associated Press*

Working Lunch newsletter: Get the latest business news headlines, delivered to your inbox midday weekdays. Go to **chicagotribune.com/workinglunch**

Who’s Who in Local Business: Have a promotion or hire you’d like to tell the world about? Go to **placeanad.chicagotribune.com/whos-who**

This artistic rendering shows a dramatically redesigned Pennsylvania Station in New York City. The rectangular stone facade is lined with columns along the enterance. **HELLER INC.**

Trump's name included in design for Penn Station's $8B renovation

By Philip Marcelo
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — When Manhattan's original Pennsylvania Station was demolished in 1963, it marked the undignified end to one of America's great public works, a monolithic Beaux Arts train terminal with Roman-style columns and a spacious central waiting area that was at the time the city's largest indoor space.

In its place rose Madison Square Garden — home of NBA's New York Knicks and NHL's New York Rangers — while train commuters were forced underground into gloomy, claustrophobic, low-ceilinged corridors when the redesign was completed in 1968.

"Through Pennsylvania Station one entered the city like a god," the architectural historian Vincent Scully famously lamented. "One scuttles in now like a rat."

But a dramatic new vision for the busiest transit hub in the Western Hemisphere calls for a return to the original station's grandeur from 1910. Renderings released this week feature a rectangular stone facade lined with imposing columns along a grand entryway. Inside, a sunlight-drenched concourse boasts soaring ceilings more than 50 feet high in places. There are bronze finishes and other ornamental details, like a bas-relief of the city's skyline and a large station clock.

Inside one entryway, an inside wall bears the seal and name of President Donald Trump, who had Amtrak assume control of the project last year after decades of political infighting among transit agencies and opposition to moving Madison Square Garden from billionaire owner James Dolan.

Trump has floated renaming his hometown station in his honor as he has sought to burnish his legacy through public works projects, from a massive new White House ballroom to a triumphal arch.

For now, though, the name etched across the proposed grand facade would still read "Pennsylvania Station," according to the renderings. They were released by Amtrak, which owns the terminal, and Penn Transformation Partners, the design and development consortium picked for the project.

The proposed design draws from the ornate, Beaux-Arts design of Grand Central Terminal, the city's other major rail hub, as well as Art Deco landmarks like the Empire State Building and Rockefeller Center, according to lead design architect Vishaan Chakrabarti.

The vision, he said, is to restore Penn Station's place among the pantheon of the city's greatest landmarks. "There was this fearless embrace of ornament and decoration that in some ways we've lost," Chakrabarti said. "We want to bring some of that sense of craftsmanship back."

The redesign is projected to cost roughly $8 billion, and construction is targeted to begin before the end of 2027, officials said Monday. Penn Station would remain in operation throughout as the project progresses in phases over about six years.

More than 600,000 commuters traverse the rail hub on any given workday, or more than the three major international airports that serve greater New York City combined.

Plans floated over the decades have called for relocating Madison Square Gardeb, but the plan is for the "World's Most Famous Arena" to remain in place. A theater owned by the venue and built directly above the tracks would have to be razed.

Judge's ruling derails president's order for $100K H-1B visa fees

By Paul Wiseman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Commerce chief Howard Lutnick speaks while President Donald Trump signs H-1B order. **ALEX BRANDON/AP 2025**

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump last year dramatically ratcheted up the fee for H-1B work visas to $100,000, saying it would protect American workers from losing their jobs to lower-paid foreigners.

But this week a federal judge struck down the fees, siding with 20 states and ruling that the Trump administration exceeded its authority by raising the charge without congressional approval.

Many tech companies and universities rely on the H-1B program to fill openings for skilled jobs. But critics charge the visa program has been used to replace U.S. tech workers.

Here's a look at the visa program, Trump's fee and the court's decision.

WHO USES THEM?

Created by the 1990 Immigration Act, H-1B work visas are a type of nonimmigrant visa, meant to allow U.S. companies to bring in people with technical skills that are hard to find in the United States. The visas are not intended for people who want to stay permanently. Some eventually do, but only after transitioning to different immigration statuses.

An H-1B allows employers to hire foreign workers who have specialized skills and a bachelor's degree or the equivalent. They are good for three years and can be extended another three years.

Stephen Brown of Capital Economics estimated last year that there were around 700,000 H-1B visa holders in the U.S. along with another 500,000 dependents.

At least 60% of the H-1B visas approved since 2012 have been for computer-related jobs, according to the Pew Research Center. But hospitals, banks, universities and a wide range of other employers can and do apply for H-1B visas.

The number of new visas issued annually is capped at 65,000, plus an additional 20,000 for people with a master's degree or higher. Those visas are handed out by a lottery. Some employers, such as universities and nonprofits, are exempt from the limits.

WHAT DID TRUMP DO?

The White House announced the $100,000 fee last September. The application fee previously was $215 to enter the visa lottery, plus other processing charges. The higher fee took effect barely 24 hours after the announcement.

Critics say that H-1B visas undercut U.S. workers, luring people from overseas who are often willing to work for less than American tech workers do. Staffing companies such as Tata Consultancy Services often supply Indian workers to corporate clients. According to Pew, nearly three-quarters of those whose applications were approved in 2023 came from India.

"To take advantage of artificially low labor costs incentivized by the program, companies close their IT divisions, fire their American staff, and outsource IT jobs to lower-paid foreign workers," the White House said in its proclamation last year.

In a 2020 report, the left-leaning Economic Policy Institute found that 60% of the H-1B positions certified by U.S. Labor Department are assigned wages below the median for the job.

Supporters of the program say H-1B visa holders increase companies' productivity and complement the work of native-born Americans.

Few companies have been willing to pay Trump's fee. The government had received only 85 fee payments, worth $8.5 million in revenue, as of mid-February, according to a government court filing in March.

"The $100,000 fee was not a success in terms of revenue generation," said Bernhard Mueller, co-chair of the immigration practice at the law firm Ogletree Deakins.

WHAT HAPPENED?

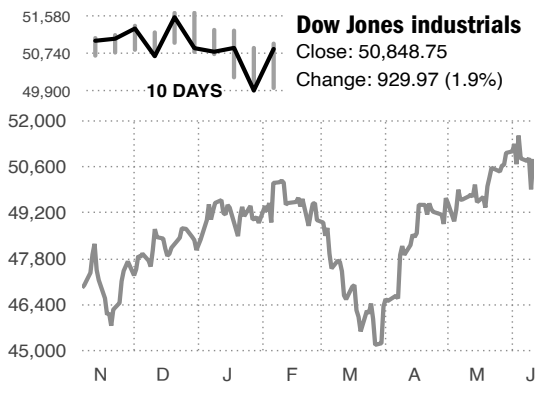
U.S. District Court Judge Leo Sorokin in Boston ruled Monday that the fee violated the Administrative Procedure Act, which governs how federal agencies develop and issue regulations.

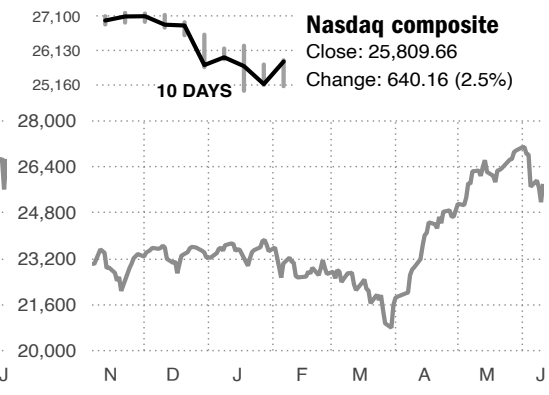
"The Court finds that the Policy imposes a tax on H-1B petitions without the requisite delegation by Congress," Sorokin wrote.

The states argued that the policy impedes their ability to hire primary and secondary school educators and to staff public colleges and universities, which will stymie academic research and lead to a decline in medical workers.

Market Roundup

▲ DOW 50,848.75	▲ NASDAQ 25,809.66	▲ S&P 500 7,394.30	▲ EURO 1.1579	▼ CRUDE OIL 87.71	▼ GOLD 4,090.30	▼ 6-MO T-BILLS 3.8	▼ 30-YR T-BONDS 4.95
929.97 1.86%	640.16 2.54%	127.31 1.75%	0.0045 0.39%	-2.32 -2.58%	-17.90 -0.44%	-0.01 -0.26%	-0.08 -1.57%





StocksRecap

	NYSE	NASD
Vol. (in mil.)	5088	5176
Pvs. Volume	4791	5215
Advanced	1837	2041
Declined	742	943
New Highs	61	78
New Lows	21	78

	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR	YTD
DOW	50,968.95	49,972.07	50,848.75	+929.97	+1.86%	▼	▼	▲	+5.80%
DOW Trans.	22,555.13	21,874.03	22,523.74	+701.19	+3.21%	▲	▲	▲	+29.77%
DOW Util.	1,116.24	1,103.39	1,104.69	+2.93	+0.27%	▼	▼	▼	+3.43%
NYSE Comp.	23,479.26	23,080.83	23,412.89	+332.07	+1.44%	▲	▲	▲	+6.40%
NASDAQ	25,846.56	25,109.39	25,809.66	+640.16	+2.54%	▲	▼	▲	+11.05%
S&P 500	7,412.68	7,257.33	7,394.30	+127.31	+1.75%	▲	▼	▲	+8.02%
S&P 400	3,772.15	3,691.28	3,769.67	+93.66	+2.55%	▲	▲	▲	+14.05%
DOW Total	73,481.65	71,930.64	73,315.78	+1360.21	+1.89%	▲	▼	▲	+8.61%
Russell 2000	2,923.93	2,854.23	2,921.03	+85.57	+3.02%	▲	▲	▲	+17.69%

LOCAL STOCKS

NAME	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	YTD CHG	LO	HI	DIV
ANI Pharmaceuticals Inc.	81.65	-0.20	-0.2%	+2.76	61.18	99.50	...
AbbVie Inc.	224.77	-0.18	-0.1%	-3.72	181.73	244.81	6.92
Abbott Laboratories	89.65	+.48	+0.5%	-35.64	81.97	139.06	2.52
Acco Brands Corp.	3.96	-0.04	-1.1%	+.22	2.81	4.30	0.30
Addus HomeCare	93.04	-0.13	-0.1%	-14.34	87.95	124.44	...
Allstate Corp., The	219.57	-3.77	-1.7%	+11.38	188.08	227.62	4.32
AptarGroup Inc.	116.58	+1.91	+1.7%	-5.30	103.23	164.28	1.92
Archer Daniels Midland Co	78.90	-2.38	-2.9%	+21.47	48.20	85.37	2.08
Baxter International Inc.	20.49	+.18	+0.6%	+1.33	15.73	31.76	0.04
Broadwind	4.13	+.17	+4.5%	+1.31	1.73	4.90	...
Brunswick Corp.	81.62	+2.94	+3.6%	+7.25	54.20	90.25	1.76
CDW	129.13	-0.17	-0.1%	-7.07	97.12	183.91	2.52
CF Industries Holdings Inc	106.56	-2.70	-2.5%	+29.16	75.42	141.96	2.00
CME Group Inc.	262.18	-1.62	-0.6%	-11.00	244.56	329.16	5.20
CNA Financial Corp.	44.85	+.05	+0.1%	-2.89	41.53	50.70	1.92
Century Aluminum	60.94	+1.90	+3.1%	+21.70	16.59	70.43	...
Chicago Rivet & Machine (	10.00	-0.14	-1.3%	-3.91	8.50	15.00	0.12
Coeur Mining Inc.	16.40	+.99	+6.3%	-1.44	8.46	27.77	...
ConAgra Brands Inc.	13.45	+.11	+0.7%	-3.88	12.53	22.49	1.40
Deere & Co.	568.64	+8.59	+1.5%	+102.64	433.48	674.19	6.48
Distribution Solutions Grp	27.70	+.48	+1.8%	+.33	19.02	33.80	0.48
Dover Corp.	218.53	+4.77	+2.0%	+22.84	158.97	237.54	2.08
Enova International Inc.	189.59	+9.67	+6.1%	+33.65	92.75	191.22	...
Equity Lifestyle Propert. In	63.94	-0.38	-0.6%	+3.35	58.15	69.00	2.17
Equity Residential	66.65	-0.96	-1.5%	+3.54	57.58	70.18	2.81
Exelon Corp.	45.51	-0.10	-0.3%	+1.90	42.18	50.65	1.68
Federal Signal Corp.	110.31	-0.34	-0.3%	+1.70	97.25	132.89	0.60
First Busey	28.47	+.14	+0.5%	+4.68	21.63	28.60	1.04
First Indust.Realty Trust In	62.79	+.38	+0.6%	+5.50	47.36	64.66	2.00
First Mid Bancshares Inc.	46.20	+.06	+0.1%	+7.20	33.92	46.49	1.00
Fortune Brands Innovation	42.96	+2.53	+6.0%	-7.14	32.34	64.84	1.04
FreightCar America Inc.	8.23	+.37	+4.5%	-2.86	7.27	14.90	0.36
Fuel Technologies Inc.	1.34	+.04	+3.1%	-0.22	1.17	3.65	...
GATX Corp.	172.22	+.52	+0.4%	+2.86	148.20	205.56	2.64
Gallagher & Co., Arthur J.	220.90	+.76	+0.3%	-37.94	190.75	327.34	2.80
Gogo Inc.	3.64	+.24	+7.1%	-1.02	3.29	16.82	...
Grainger Inc., W.W.	1313.96	-3.67	-0.3%	+304.99	906.52	1349.74	9.96
Groupon Inc.	16.87	+.78	+4.9%	-0.73	9.17	43.08	...
Horace Mann Educators C	48.75	+.25	+0.4%	+2.52	40.04	49.21	1.44
Hub Group Inc.	45.80	+1.36	+3.0%	+3.18	32.46	53.26	0.50
Huron Consulting Group Ir	106.43	-3.01	-2.5%	-66.23	100.10	186.78	...
Hyatt Hotels Corp.	197.86	+7.23	+3.8%	+37.46	127.59	199.87	0.60
IDEX Corp.	216.90	+2.40	+0.9%	+38.54	157.25	223.94	2.92

NAME	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	YTD CHG	LO	HI	DIV
Illinois Tool Works Inc.	254.45	+4.28	+1.7%	+8.04	238.82	303.16	6.44
Ingredion Inc.	100.90	-1.64	-1.5%	-9.30	97.12	140.47	3.28
JBT Marel Corp.	123.13	+4.13	+3.4%	-27.57	113.67	170.19	0.40
John B. Sanfilippo & Son I	77.54	-0.41	-0.5%	+6.98	59.07	85.15	0.90
Jones Lang Lasalle Inc.	297.88	-0.34	-0.1%	-38.58	233.14	362.90	0.43
Kemper Corp.	24.78	+.06	+0.2%	-15.78	22.69	65.32	1.28
Knowles Corp.	39.45	+2.14	+5.7%	+18.00	16.73	39.92	...
Kraft Heinz	24.22	+.17	+0.6%	-0.04	21.04	29.19	1.60
LKQ Corp.	25.98	+.51	+2.0%	-4.21	23.98	39.77	1.20
Lifeway Foods Inc.	25.00	+1.17	+4.8%	+.75	17.31	34.20	0.08
Littelfuse Inc.	462.98	+23.54	+5.3%	+209.84	215.16	500.57	3.00
MYR Group Inc. (Del.)	425.08	+17.86	+4.4%	+206.54	159.61	484.71	...
McDonald's Corp.	284.77	+2.25	+0.8%	-20.81	271.85	341.75	7.44
Methode Electronics Inc.	11.42	+.87	+8.2%	+4.78	4.88	15.55	0.20
Middleby Corp	157.94	+4.19	+2.6%	+9.01	110.82	169.44	...
Mondelez International Inc	63.36	-0.82	-1.4%	+9.47	51.20	71.15	2.00
Morningstar Inc.	177.15	-8.91	-4.9%	-40.28	149.08	316.71	2.00
Motorola Solutions Inc.	410.35	-1.29	-0.3%	+27.20	359.36	492.22	4.84
NISOURCE Inc.	46.62	-0.01	-0.1%	+4.82	38.45	48.98	1.20
Northern Trust Corp.	170.75	+4.62	+2.7%	+34.03	107.08	173.66	3.20
Oil-Dri Corp. of America	95.60	-0.01	+0.0%	+46.70	45.61	99.03	0.90
Old Republic Intl Corp.	38.21	-0.19	-0.5%	-7.44	35.60	46.76	1.26
Old Second Bancorp Inc.	22.22	+.10	+0.4%	+2.70	16.42	22.43	0.28
OneSpan Inc.	14.31	+.18	+1.3%	+1.47	10.07	18.12	0.52
Paylocity Holding Corp.	108.23	-3.41	-3.1%	-44.31	93.27	197.78	...
QCR Holdings Inc.	96.38	+.91	+0.9%	+13.00	63.68	96.80	0.40
RLI Corp.	54.13	+.19	+0.3%	-9.86	47.26	74.41	0.64
Richardson Electronics Lt	17.37	+1.03	+6.2%	+6.46	8.79	19.86	0.24
Ryan Specialty Holdings Ir	34.49	-0.18	-0.4%	-17.12	29.28	69.49	0.52
Stepan Co.	53.15	+1.47	+2.5%	+5.62	41.82	68.00	1.58
Suncoke Energy Inc.	9.45	+.34	+3.7%	+2.24	5.52	9.74	0.48
Telephone & Data Systems	40.03	+.11	+0.2%	-1.00	32.60	49.12	0.16
Titan International Inc.	7.39	+.16	+2.4%	-0.43	6.43	11.70	0.02
Tootsie Roll Industries Inc	38.74	-0.75	-1.8%	+2.15	32.70	45.06	0.36
TransUnion	65.70	-2.15	-3.2%	-20.04	64.51	99.39	0.50
US Foods Holding Corp.	91.23	+1.05	+1.2%	+15.93	69.88	102.13	...
Ulta Beauty Inc.	476.42	+5.67	+1.2%	-128.43	452.00	714.97	...
United Airlines	112.61	+9.83	+9.5%	+.75	71.55	119.21	...
Ventas Inc.	83.89	-0.46	-0.7%	+6.38	61.76	91.06	2.08
Wintrust Financial Corp.	155.85	+1.22	+0.8%	+16.00	116.57	162.96	2.20
Yunhong Green CTI Ltd.	3.59	-0.20	-5.3%	-0.04	2.38	10.29	...
Zebra Technologies Corp.	222.44	+5.65	+2.6%	-20.38	199.05	352.66	...

Commodities

Natural gas fell 3.14% to $3.087. Crude oil decreased 2.58% to $87.71. Heating oil rose 1.98% to $3.6126. Coffee increased 1.64% to $2.48.

FUELS	CLOSE	PVS.	CHG	%YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	87.71	90.03	-2.32	+50.5
Heating Oil (gal)	3.61	3.54	+0.07	+63.3
Natural Gas (mm btu)	3.09	3.18	-0.10	-16.3
Unleaded Gas (gal)	3.10	3.11	-0.01	+78.5

METALS	CLOSE	PVS.	CHG	%YTD
Aluminum (ton)	3,544.50	3,529.75	+14.75	+22.0
Copper (lb)	6.26	6.25	+0.01	+11.2
Gold (oz)	4,090.30	4,108.20	-17.90	-2.7
Platinum (oz)	1,662.60	1,688.00	-25.40	-18.3
Silver (oz)	63.88	64.60	-0.71	-8.8

AGRICULTURE	CLOSE	PVS.	CHG	%YTD
Lumber (1,000 bd ft)	619.50	620.00	-0.50	+0.8
Cattle (lb)	2.51	2.50	+0.01	+8.6
Coffee (lb)	2.48	2.44	+0.04	-26.9
Corn (bu)	4.12	4.19	-0.07	-6.5
Cotton (lb)	71.10	71.26	-0.16	+12.9
Orange Juice (lb)	1.67	1.70	-0.03	-19.1
Soybeans (bu)	11.15	11.23	-0.08	+8.2
Wheat (bu)	5.87	5.88	-0.01	+15.7

Foreign Exchange

South African Rand fell most at -1.879%, followed by Mexican Peso at -1.139%. Euro led gains with 0.389%, and British Pound rose 0.299%.

MAJORS	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	6MO AGO	1YR AGO
British Pound (GBP/USD)	1.3412	+.0040	+.30%	1.3386	1.3547
Canadian Dollar	1.3954	+.0024	+.17%	1.3769	1.3672
Euro (EUR/USD)	1.1579	+.0045	+.39%	1.1736	1.1489
Japanese Yen	159.927	-.5700	-.36%	155.57	144.52
Mexican Peso	17.2267	-.1985	-1.14%	18.034	18.898
EUROPE/AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST					
Israeli Shekel	2.9626	-.0049	-.16%	3.2089	3.4828
Norwegian Krone	9.4602	+.0167	+.18%	10.067	9.9512
South African Rand	16.2158	-.3105	-1.88%	16.856	17.707
Swedish Krona	9.4370	-.0783	-.82%	9.2465	9.5471
Swiss Franc	.7948	-.0044	-.55%	.7952	.8201
ASIA/PACIFIC					
Australian Dollar	1.4186	-.0104	-.73%	1.4999	1.5375
Chinese Yuan	6.7755	+.0030	+.04%	7.0579	7.1874
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8366	+.0007	+.01%	7.7814	7.8493
Indian Rupee	94.4955	-1.073	-1.12%	90.268	85.547
Singapore Dollar	1.2836	-.0036	-.28%	1.2917	1.2842
South Korean Won	1517.81	-2.970	-.20%	1470.2	1368.1
Taiwan Dollar	31.5638	-.0570	-.18%	31.197	29.861

Interestrates

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 4.455%. Yields affect interest rates on mortgages and other consumer loans.

	PRIME RATE	FED FUNDS
YEST	6.75	3.62
6 MO AGO	6.75	3.62
1 YR AGO	6.75	3.62

TREASURIES	LAST	PVS	NET CHG	WK	MO	QTR	1YR AGO
3-month T-bill	3.71	3.72	-0.01	–	▲	▲	3.62
6-month T-bill	3.80	3.81	-0.01	▲	▲	▲	3.59
1-year T-bill	3.85	3.90	-0.05	▲	▲	▲	3.54
2-year T-note	4.06	4.14	-0.08	▲	▲	▲	3.52
5-year T-note	4.18	4.27	-0.09	–	▲	▲	3.75
10-year T-note	4.46	4.55	-0.09	▼	▼	▲	4.19
30-year T-bond	4.95	5.03	-0.08	▼	▼	▲	4.85

CONSUMER RATES	NAT'L AVG	WK AGO	6MO AGO	1YR AGO
72 month new car loan	6.17 –	6.17	6.92	6.61
Money Market Account	0.43 ▼	0.43	0.42	0.44
1 year cd	1.94 ▲	1.94	1.92	1.98
$30K Home equity loan	7.65 ▲	7.08	8.13	8.64
30 year fixed mortgage	6.57 ▼	6.62	6.32	6.87
15 year fixed mortgage	5.97 ▼	6.00	5.71	6.15

Trump calls off next strikes on Iran

Negotiation progress cited hours after post promising to hit hard

By Jon Gambrell and Aamer Madhani
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A small boat passes large ships Thursday in the Strait of Hormuz off Bandar Abbas, Iran. **AMIRHOSEIN KHORGOOI/ISNA**

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — President Donald Trump said Thursday that he has called off new military strikes on Iran, hours after threatening to escalate the war by seizing control of the country's oil industry.

Trump has said multiple times in recent weeks that the warring parties have been on the cusp of a deal without anything coming to fruition.

A spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry said in a live phone call on state television that mediators were active and nothing had been finalized to end the conflict that began Feb. 28 when the U.S. and Israel jointly attacked Iran.

Trump opened an Oval Office event Thursday afternoon saying: "We just made a great settlement of the war with Iran."

He offered scant details, other than to say he expects an agreement to extend a fragile ceasefire that started in April to be finalized "over the next few days."

Extending the terms of the ceasefire gives U.S. leaders more time to negotiate over Iran's nuclear program, the main reason Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu used to justify launching the war.

The announcement came after two days of back-and-forth attacks between the U.S. and Iran had pushed the Middle East closer to the resumption of a full-scale war.

Trump had threatened further escalation earlier Thursday, posting on social media that the U.S. would hit Iran "VERY HARD TONIGHT" and take "total control" of its oil and gas industries.

A few hours later, Trump posted on social media that significant points in the negotiations "have been brought to the highest level of Iranian leadership and approved."

Esmail Baghaei, spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry, said in his phone call on state television that text of a deal is "mostly finalized."

"The problem is that the contradictions in America's position has caused turbulence to this process," he said Thursday night.

A major sticking point in negotiations has been Iran's nuclear program, which the U.S. and Israel fear could lead to an atomic weapon, but which Tehran says is for peaceful purposes. Another key issue is Iran's stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz, a critical shipping lane for transporting oil and natural gas.

Trump's rapid shift Thursday from dire threats to promoting peace negotiations again underscored his whipsaw approach to the war. He suggested Monday that a deal to end the conflict could be reached in a matter of days.

Then back-and-forth strikes rattled the Middle East this week. The first involved attacks between Iran and Israel, followed by the two rounds of fire between the U.S. and Iran, which targeted countries where U.S. troops are based. The U.S. strikes began after Trump blamed Iran for downing an American helicopter near the Strait of Hormuz. Both pilots were rescued safely.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said the U.S. attacks had "effectively rendered the ceasefire ... meaningless," without saying it was abandoning it.

After Trump threatened more attacks were to come Thursday, Iran's parliamentary speaker, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, responded on social media that "wrong strategies and impulsive decisions" would wreak havoc on energy markets and "create an endless quagmire that you will be stuck in for years."

It wasn't the first time Trump threatened escalation before giving negotiations another chance. In April, he warned Iran that "a whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again" if it didn't agree to his terms, before extending a ceasefire.

Iran's monthslong disruption of shipping through the strait has crimped global energy supplies, driven up fuel prices and made food and other basics more expensive.

Trump had threatened Thursday to seize Kharg Island, the heart of Iran's oil industry, through which 90% of its exports pass.

But Trump himself soon voiced doubts about taking over the oil terminal, saying in an interview with Fox News: "I don't know that America has the stomach for it, to be honest."

He added: "I don't want to have boots on the ground. But if I wanted to, we could put a small group of soldiers and take over the place."

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a social media post that the U.S. would extract funds from frozen Iranian accounts to offset the costs of damage to American allies and any tolls Iran imposes for ships to transit the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has insisted that any deal to end the war must also end fighting in Lebanon between its ally militia Hezbollah and Israel. But Netanyahu appears intent on pursuing his goal of destroying the militant group.

The U.S. military's Central Command said Thursday that it struck a Guinea-Bissau-flagged tanker attempting to evade the U.S. blockade on Iranian ports.

It said the M/T Jalveer was transporting Iranian oil when it was disabled late Wednesday after its crew failed to obey U.S. orders.

It's the ninth merchant vessel the U.S. military says it disabled to enforce the blockade.

Three Indian sailors were killed when U.S. forces struck the Palau-flagged M/T Settebello on Tuesday, India's minister overseeing ports and shipping said Thursday on X.

The leader of the International Maritime Organization, a United Nations agency, condemned the attack.

Minn. man pleads guilty in fatal lawmaker attack

Gunman posed as police officer, fired on officials, spouses

By Tim Sullivan and Hannah Fingerhut
ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Attorney Daniel Rosen discusses the case's outcome — two consecutive life terms, plus 40 years — Thursday in Minneapolis. **ALEX KORMANN/MINNESOTA STAR TRIBUNE**

MINNEAPOLIS — A Minnesota man who posed as a police officer and knocked on lawmakers' doors in the middle of the night, killing the top Democrat in the state House and her husband and wounding a state Democratic senator and his wife, pleaded guilty to murder on Thursday so that federal prosecutors would not seek the death penalty.

The attacks by Vance Boelter, 58, sparked the largest search for a suspect in state history. They also reverberated far beyond Minnesota, as elected officials across the country feared that escalating threats and polarization could lead to more violence.

There were brief sobs from the courtroom gallery Thursday as family members of Melissa and Mark Hortman sat alongside Sen. John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette, while the chilling events of June 14, 2025, were described in great detail.

Disguised with a tactical uniform and realistic mask that covered his entire head, Boelter drove a fake police SUV with lights flashing to the legislators' homes. As his federal defense attorney questioned him about his actions, including whether he pressed a gun to Melissa Hortman's head and fired, Boelter repeatedly said a simple "yes."

The Hortman family's golden retriever was so gravely injured that it had to be euthanized.

U.S. Attorney Daniel Rosen said in a news conference Thursday that prosecutors believed the case was charged appropriately and "death penalty-eligible." He said the death penalty was taken off the table only with Boelter's agreement to the longest possible prison sentence: two consecutive life terms, plus 40 years, for the six federal charges.

"Political violence is a scourge in our nation," Rosen said in a statement Thursday. "To all of those who would commit political violence: This Justice Department will seek and obtain the longest prison terms for your offense."

Boelter also faces state charges, including two counts of murder and four counts of attempted murder as well as charges of impersonating a police officer and animal cruelty. The Hennepin County Attorney's Office said Thursday that the federal plea agreement does not affect the state's case, which had been on hold pending the resolution of the federal case.

Boelter followed along in the courtroom Thursday as U.S. District Judge John Tunheim talked through each of the six charges and the maximum sentences they carry. Tunheim accepted the guilty pleas but did not set a date for sentencing.

After firing at police as he fled one of the crime scenes, Boelter was captured near his home in rural Green Isle the day after the shootings, which prosecutors have said were politically motivated. When they announced the federal indictment in July, they released a rambling handwritten letter they say Boelter wrote to FBI Director Kash Patel in which he confessed to the attacks. However, the letter didn't make clear why he targeted the Hortmans or the Hoffmans.

In some messages to media, Boelter referenced a vague and cryptic "investigation" he had been carrying out, sometimes suggesting it was about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Friends described Boelter as an evangelical Christian and occasional preacher and missionary who held politically conservative views and had been struggling to find work.

John Hoffman said in a lawsuit filed against Boelter in April that his left arm and hand likely would never fully recover and that he also had permanent injuries to his digestive and urinary systems. Yvette Hoffman was left with permanent physical weakness, the lawsuit said, while their adult daughter, Hope Hoffman, who was there and called 911 but was not shot, suffered severe psychological trauma.

The attack on the legislators shattered the culture that had long defined politics in Minnesota, where lawmakers listed their home addresses online and made it easy for residents to contact them.

In the year since, Minnesota has changed.

Politicians have scrubbed personal information from their websites. Security checkpoints have been installed at the state Capitol.

Last June, as the search for Boelter was underway, law enforcement officials contacted a long list of public figures, many of them Democratic politicians, whose names had been found inside an SUV that he abandoned at one of the shooting scenes.

The state's leaders also told people who had planned to attend "No Kings" protests that weekend to stay home after investigators found papers in the vehicle suggesting he might have been planning to attack demonstrators.

The New York Times contributed.

First lady Melania Trump speaks Thursday about Trump Accounts for children in foster care at the Department of Treasury in Washington. **ALLISON ROBBERT/AP**

First lady unveils spinoff of Trump Accounts

By Fatima Hussein
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — First lady Melania Trump and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Thursday announced the launch of Fostering the Future Accounts, a spinoff of the Trump Accounts investment funds meant to give $1,000 to every newborn whose parent opens one.

Building on her work helping foster children, Trump said the new federal guidance will give child welfare agencies the ability to act as a guardian for children in foster care for the purposes of opening an account.

The first lady said the move "gives foster children the same chance at asset ownership and long-term wealth as every other child."

The accounts will be open for contributions on July 4. To qualify for an account, a child must also be a U.S. citizen born between Jan. 1, 2025, and Dec. 31, 2028.

The White House Council of Economic Advisers estimates that a Trump Account balance for a baby born in 2026 will be $5,800 by age 18 and $18,100 by age 28 if no other contributions are made.

The first lady said 23 GOP governors have pledged to allow state agencies to begin the process of enrolling children in the program.

There are roughly 330,000 children in the U.S. foster care system, according to the National Council for Adoption. One in 5 of them is at risk of homelessness after aging out of foster care, and only half gain employment by the time they are 24, the National Foster Youth Institute says.

Trump Accounts were created by a provision of President Donald Trump's tax and spending legislation enacted last summer.

Under them, the Treasury Department gives $1,000 to babies so long as their parents open an account. That money is invested in the stock market by private firms, and the children can access the money when they turn 18.

Blanche shifts Trump tactic stance

Once seen as check on power, official advancing agenda

By Glenn Thrush
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Todd Blanche greets President Donald Trump Oct. 8 in the White House. **ANNA ROSE LAYDEN/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

WASHINGTON — When he was the Justice Department's No. 2 official, Todd Blanche ejected his subordinate Ed Martin, then the leader of the agency's "anti-weaponization" task force, from offices on the fourth floor at headquarters to a satellite site an 18-minute car ride across town.

Blanche had long complained that Martin, whose demands for retribution tracked closely with President Donald Trump's own calls for vengeance, spent too much of his time taunting his targets and too little time knuckling down to conduct effective investigations, Blanche told people in his orbit when he made the move in February.

Many people in the department, and even some critics of Blanche on the outside, viewed the Martin episode as a modest victory for normalcy. It seemed to feed into a narrative, which flourished and faded in the early days of the administration, that Blanche, a former federal prosecutor, would at least try to mitigate Trump's excesses.

"There was a belief among career Justice Department lawyers that Todd Blanche was going to save us," Liz Oyer, who was ousted as the department's pardon attorney by Blanche last year, wrote recently on Substack.

That was a major misreading, Oyer now says. "It's hard to even describe how bad things got," she added in the post, reflecting a widely held view not just among critics of Trump but among career officials inside the department.

Blanche, elevated to acting attorney general in April when Trump fired Pam Bondi, promoted an expansive view of executive power as Trump's defense lawyer in three of the criminal cases against him, a view that remains. An attorney general is obligated under Article II of the Constitution to comply with a president's lawful demands, he has argued.

On Monday, Trump nominated Blanche to be attorney general, after a two-month flurry of department activity that seems to have erased any doubts that Blanche, a former Democrat who has drawn criticism from some Trump supporters, was not all in.

"It is extraordinarily hypocritical and extraordinarily rich for these critics, as you call them, to focus on what this administration is doing, when almost to a person they remain dead silent for four years while we saw what happened during the Biden administration with President Trump," he told CBS News this month, when Trump had not named a permanent Bondi successor.

Blanche declined to say whether the president had directly ordered him to investigate hand-picked targets, saying only that Trump had "much better, bigger and important things to do than to worry about me doing my job."

He added that he woke up every day with a "clean conscience" about the job he was doing.

In interviews and congressional testimony over the past six weeks, Blanche has tried to focus on more conventional projects he is overseeing, like continuing efforts to combat fentanyl trafficking that were championed by Bondi. He has also emphasized his role in establishing a new fraud task force and in pressing Congress to increase funding for the chronically cash-starved and understaffed Bureau of Prisons.

Blanche, 51, has repeatedly denied singling out investigative targets for political reasons, telling CBS that "it is absolutely not true" that he was part of a Trump-led campaign of retribution. The fact that the department files "hundreds" of criminal cases each day belied the idea that he was not acting in good faith, he added. Yet Trump has explicitly called upon Bondi and Blanche to go after his enemies — and they have often done so.

Even before Bondi's abrupt removal, Blanche had been working with her on a spree of investigative actions intended to demonstrate progress to an impatient White House, including plans to move against former CIA Director John Brennan and a former White House aide, Cassidy Hutchinson. A few weeks after Bondi was dismissed, Blanche approved the indictment of James Comey, the former FBI director, for posting a photo of seashells arranged to read "86 47."

Last month, Blanche signed an order creating a $1.8 billion compensation fund for people who claimed to have been victims of unfair Justice Department prosecutions. He was forced to withdraw it last week after a rare revolt by Senate Republicans who viewed it as an ethical, legal and political abomination.

Again, Blanche expressed concerns internally about a possible backlash against the plan while saying privately that it had passed muster legally. Again, his concerns were brushed aside, and he assented to being the face of a doomed policy.

Blanche — known for patiently enduring Trump's outbursts during criminal proceedings in 2023 and 2024 — defended the decision during a bruising closed-door session in May with the same Republican senators who must now vote on his confirmation.

Earlier this month, he again walked the political plank before a House committee. Even as he scrapped the fund idea, he steadfastly defended a provision that potentially shields Trump, his family and his business from $100 million in tax liabilities.

As he moves from a supporting player to a Cabinet-level profile, Blanche has cast aside the button-down, lawyerly circumspection and become increasingly willing to speak publicly about ongoing investigations.

In an interview on "Hang Out with Sean Hannity," a Fox News podcast released last week, Blanche conceded that the department could not indict all of those he believed had acted improperly. But he said that "outing what happened" was an acceptable investigative goal in the absence of criminal cases.

"It's not necessarily that a crime was committed," he said. "But we are, we are, we are putting a memo out, we're putting on information, so that everybody knows that we kind of self-cleaned, and this isn't going to happen again."

Blanche went on to name names — many, many names — and openly discussed a so-called grand conspiracy investigation that seeks to tie together many investigations into the president in a single purported plot to deprive Trump of his rights. His comments represented a sharp break with a Justice Department policy that bars the public discussion of open inquiries, particularly those involving grand juries.

At the end of the podcast, Hannity's producers posted a disclaimer in all capital letters, slapping asterisks on almost every person Blanche had discussed.

It read, "John Brennan, Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, Joe Biden, Letitia James, Alvin Bragg, Matthew Colangelo, Arthur Engoron and James Clapper have not been charged with any crimes in connection with any alleged conspiracy. Charges against James Comey related to alleged false statements and obstruction have been dismissed. There have been no findings that Rod Rosenstein, Tim Walz, Gavin Newsom or Jacob Frey engaged in professional misconduct."

The MV Hondius cruise ship arrives May 18 at the Port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands. A hantavirus outbreak killed at least three people on the Dutch vessel. **PATRICK POST/AP**

US spent $750K to retrieve citizen exposed to hantavirus aboard ship

By Matthew Lee
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration put up $750,000 to charter a private yacht to evacuate a U.S. citizen from a remote South Pacific island after she had been aboard a cruise ship at the center of a deadly hantavirus outbreak, a move that has further strained the State Department's emergency budget.

The woman, who may have been exposed to the virus while aboard the Dutch MV Hondius cruise liner in April, had gotten off the ship and then flown to San Francisco before traveling to the isolated British territory of Pitcairn Island through Tahiti, according to two U.S. officials and an internal government document obtained by The Associated Press.

The exact amount of the total evacuation payment is still being assessed because the operation is still underway. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a medical case covered by U.S. privacy laws.

The costly effort to pick up the woman has added to the expense of rapid evacuations for diplomats and private U.S. citizens from the Middle East since the start of the Iran war as well as preparations for possible evacuations from Ebola-stricken countries. All have stressed the State Department budget for unforeseen emergencies, known as the "K Fund," and brought its balance to the lowest level in seven years.

Another internal document said the State Department is looking at transferring as much as $50 million into that emergency fund from other accounts — $35 million from the budget for embassy security, construction and maintenance, and an additional $15 million from an account that pays for broader diplomatic programming. No decision on the transfers has been made.

One of the officials said the State Department has another option, to ask Congress to replenish the fund. However, the official said the department is expected to be able to handle payments for both ongoing and "emerging contingency needs."

The State Department declined to comment on the specifics of the woman's case on Pitcairn Island but said that "when an American is at risk abroad and unable to access commercial transportation, the Department of State seeks to provide appropriate assistance to get them home to the United States or to another safe location."

After the woman departed the cruise liner where the hantavirus outbreak occurred, the ship continued to other destinations in the South Atlantic, with some passengers falling ill and at least three dying. The unidentified American woman was stuck on Pitcairn, an island with only about 50 inhabitants, no airport and infrequent maritime options to depart.

Pitcairn is well-known as the island on which Fletcher Christian and other British mutineers from the HMS Bounty took refuge after the 1789 events that toppled Capt. William Bligh, which have entered into the public lexicon with books and films about the "Mutiny on the Bounty." Their descendants make up most of the island's current population.

The U.S. is transporting the woman, who was not symptomatic, from Pitcairn to Easter Island, another remote location in the Pacific about 1,400 miles away, which is a territory of Chile and has flights to Santiago, so she can return to the U.S. for any necessary treatment.

Defeated Sen. Cornyn foresees midterm 'disaster' for president

By Carl Hulse
THE NEW YORK TIMES

"If that's the way friends treat you, you wonder about his enemies," said Sen. John Cornyn, seen May 26, of President Donald Trump endorsing his rival. **ASHLEY LANDIS/AP**

WASHINGTON — Sen. John Cornyn was not consoled when President Donald Trump professed on social media that the senior Republican from Texas would "remain my friend for a long time to come" after the president had enthusiastically endorsed the man who defeated Cornyn, ending his Senate career.

"If that's the way friends treat you, you wonder about his enemies," Cornyn said this week in his first extensive interview since his loss two weeks ago to Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, an opponent Cornyn labeled corrupt and unfit for the Senate.

Cornyn said he had come to terms with his defeat, a stinging loss he attributed in part to public disillusionment with extreme partisan politics that led to low voter turnout. Now the Trump administration might find itself having to come to terms with Cornyn as he flexes new political freedom, joining a handful of other Senate Republicans not seeking reelection or defeated in primaries at Trump's behest who now have added room to maneuver.

Cornyn said he is not a "wounded bear" seeking retribution or revenge. He is determined that Republicans hold the Senate because he said he feared they would lose the House in November.

But in the interview, he gave voice in starkly candid terms to a growing sentiment among Senate Republicans that Trump was hurting his own party with self-serving decisions and his insistence on "slavish" loyalty, ultimately setting himself up for a midterm "disaster" that would pave the way for "the most miserable two years of his life."

And in the interim, Cornyn said, he reserves the right to choose "where I'm going to — or going to not — defer" to Trump.

One of those areas appears to be the special protection from IRS scrutiny that the Justice Department granted Trump and his family and businesses as part of a settlement of a lawsuit over the leak of his tax data, an exemption Cornyn said needed to be overturned.

"I think that's a terrible mistake," Cornyn said. "The president needs to be treated like everybody else."

Cornyn did not elaborate on how he would seek to reverse the deal. And unlike Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, another Republican ousted in a primary by a Trump-backed challenger, he has yet to break with Trump on a major vote since his defeat. But he made it clear that he found the settlement unacceptable.

He attributed Trump's election in part to a backlash against allegations of self-dealing in the prior administration. "To me, the message by the voter was, 'We don't like this,'" he said. "We can't replace one form of self-dealing and corruption with another."

Cornyn, who was first elected to the Senate in 2002, knew he was going to face a difficult reelection when Paxton, a MAGA darling and Trump loyalist with a string of political and personal scandals, entered the race against him. But the more institutionalist incumbent, who came up just short of being elected majority leader after the 2024 elections, was always seen as a safer — and less expensive — general election bet than the tarnished Paxton.

On May 19, as early voting in the runoff was underway, Trump gave his public blessing to Paxton, calling him a "true MAGA warrior."

In the Senate, where Republicans had balked at gutting the filibuster — something Trump has demanded and Paxton endorsed — and were raising objections to funding the president's White House ballroom project, the endorsement was seen as much as a slap at them as at Cornyn. It provided a late surge for the challenger, particularly when such a small segment of voters was going to turn out in a primary runoff the day after Memorial Day.

Cornyn believes that impact will reach far beyond his race. He is the epitome of a reliable conservative with what he listed as his "99.3%" voting record in line with the president. Unlike Cassidy, he did not vote to remove Trump from office after the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the Capitol by Trump supporters. Still, he said, Trump threw him under the bus.

"If he would do that to me, he would do that to anybody," Cornyn said.

Premature births rising in Ukraine

Medical experts cite maternal stress from war as possible factor

By Samya Kullab
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marharyta Nekhoroshyva holds her son Mark inside a shelter May 7 at the children's regional hospital in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine. **EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP**

ZAPORIZHZHIA, Ukraine — When Marharyta Nekhoroshyva first saw her newborn son, she was gripped by fear. Born after just 26 weeks of pregnancy, he weighed only 2 pounds and wore diapers no larger than the palm of an adult hand.

"The doctors told me that if he survived the first three days, everything would be OK," she said, tears filling her eyes. "I don't believe in God, but I was praying."

Now 9 months old, Mark is energetic and lively, but he has chronic breathing problems and requires frequent hospital stays.

Nekhoroshyva must navigate her son's illness while living under the constant threat of attack in the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, where hospitals board up their windows because blast waves from Russian strikes routinely shatter glass.

She is doing it alone while her husband fights in the war.

A rising number of babies are being born prematurely — before 37 weeks of pregnancy — in Ukraine, particularly in regions near the front lines, where some areas have seen rates nearly double since the conflict started with Russia's invasion in 2022.

Experts say the reasons for premature births are complex, but the profound psychological and physical stress the war is inflicting on pregnant mothers is contributing.

When their babies are at the main children's hospital in Zaporizhzhia, Nekhoroshyva and other mothers descend with their children into the shelter each night. In the narrow, dimly lit hallways, they rock and soothe their infants to sleep.

While fewer women in Ukraine are giving birth overall due to displacement, emigration and other factors during the war, a growing share of births are premature, according to data from the United Nations and recent scientific studies.

In the southern region of Kherson, the preterm birth rate nearly doubled from 5.4% in 2019 to 9.8% in 2025, according to the U.N. In the Zaporizhzhia region, also in the south, it rose from 5.7% in 2019 to 7.6% in 2025. In Poltava, a region in northeastern Ukraine, the rate rose from 7.7% to 9.8% over the same period.

The front line cuts through both the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, which frequently see attacks on residential areas. Poltava is some distance away from the front but is frequently hit by aerial strikes.

The link between maternal stress and premature birth is complex, but a growing body of research suggests that prolonged psychological strain increases the risk of babies being born early, experts say. It may be tied to an increased risk of infection, a known trigger for preterm labor, said Dr. Andrew Weeks, a professor of international maternal healthcare at the University of Liverpool.

"Premature birth is very affected by infection," he said. "And if you can't get to a place where you can get appropriate diagnosis and treatment early, then actually the chance of you going into premature labor is higher."

It's not just premature births that are rising in Ukraine; emergency cesarean sections and other complications are, too, said Isaac Hurskin, spokesperson for the U.N. Population Fund.

"We're seeing this real link between acute stress and birthing and pregnancy-related complications," he said.

Ukraine's fertility rate has fallen to among the lowest in the world, dropping to roughly one child per woman over the past three years — far below the 2.1 replacement rate, Hurskin said.

Inside an incubator in the intensive care unit at the maternity hospital in the city of Zaporizhzhia lies a baby born at 30 weeks and weighing only 1 pound, 9 ounces — well below the threshold of 5 pounds, 8 ounces that the World Health Organization classifies as low birth weight.

Her tiny body is kept alive inside the temperature-controlled incubator. IV lines deliver nutrients and medication, while a ventilator helps her breathe. The incubator is draped with a blanket to protect her fragile, developing eyes from the harsh fluorescent lights of the ward.

Treatment focuses on helping premature babies gain weight and eventually breathe on their own, but complications can be extensive, said Dr. Andrii Lobanov, head of the neonatal intensive care at Zaporizhzhia's children's hospital. Oxygen levels, for instance, must be managed precisely because of the risk of abnormal blood vessel growth in the eyes, leading to blindness in severe cases.

Even after they leave intensive care, children born prematurely often require long-term care for respiratory, neurological, developmental or immune-related conditions.

"It is very expensive and of course a country in a war situation has to decide what it's going to spend on, so hospital services invariably get hit. Both literally and metaphorically," Weeks said.

Air raid sirens have become part of daily life inside neonatal intensive care units. When they sound, doctors stay beside the babies rather than rushing them to shelters, knowing that moving the fragile newborns could be even more dangerous.

Dr. Nataliia Bohuslavska, head of the neonatal unit at the maternity hospital in Zaporizhzhia, knows every mother on her ward by first name — their cases, their fears, and their tiny babies fighting for survival. Bohuslavska has worked at the hospital for 26 years and was born there herself.

The war compounds the difficulties experienced by every pregnant woman she cares for, she said.

"She wonders what kind of world her child will be born into, under what conditions the birth will happen, and whether it will be a moment of joy or one gripped by fear with shells exploding nearby," she said.

Kyiv reshapes front with 'logistics lockdown'

Drones wreak havoc on vital supply lines for Russian troops

By Marc Santora
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ukrainian soldiers prepare to launch drones in May at targets in Russia. **BRENDAN HOFFMAN/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

DNIPRO, Ukraine — First Ukraine assembled an arsenal of millions of drones that, along with Russia's own buildup, turned a 25-mile-wide strip along the front line into a killing ground. Then Ukraine expanded its reach deep into the Russian heartland as it targeted oil infrastructure and military factories, making long-range violence in the war a two-way street.

Now, Ukraine is focusing on the middle ground — the critical roads and railways, in some cases more than 100 miles from the front, that feed Russian troops and matériel into battle. Ukraine is calling the effort a "logistics lockdown," and it is systematically reshaping the battlefield, at least until Russian forces find a way to adapt.

Ukraine is wreaking havoc on unarmored trucks and trains in the battlefield's rear, using drones with upgraded engines and batteries, integrated Starlink communication systems and new artificial intelligence capabilities. The ramped-up attacks are causing fuel shortages, complicating troop rotations and reducing Russian military activity on the front.

May was the first month since 2023 in which Russia suffered a net loss of territory, according to Ukrainian research group DeepState.

On Monday, Gen. Oleksandr Syrsky, the top Ukrainian military commander, said Ukraine in May had reclaimed nearly 40 square miles more than it lost.

The attacks on Russian logistics are part of a synchronized, multilayered campaign that covers the close-in "kill zone," the midrange resupply zone in Russian-occupied parts of Ukraine, and the territory far inside Russia where Ukraine has hit sites producing crucial weapon technology.

"That's what's new, and that's what is really hurting the Russians," said Mick Ryan, a retired Australian general who is a fellow at the Lowy Institute, a research group in Sydney.

The coordinated campaign has made it hard for Moscow to generate momentum.

Ukraine produces so many drones from its own factories that it can now launch more than 5,000 mid- and deep-range strikes every month, according to Ukrainian officials. Late last week, Ukraine's defense minister, Mykhailo Fedorov, said Ukrainian forces last month carried out twice as many strikes at least 30 miles from the front line as they did in April.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington think tank, found in a recent assessment that such strikes were helping to push the conflict into a new phase.

As the forces operate systems "capable of disrupting Russian forces throughout their operational depth," according to researchers at the think tank, Ukraine has a "unique and time-constrained opportunity" to mount the sort of mechanized offensives that have become difficult because of the threat of drones.

Jack Watling, a senior fellow at the Royal United Services Institute, a research group in London, wrote in Foreign Affairs that the war had reached a turning point, arguing that as Russia's battlefield performance worsened, Ukraine had a chance to push Moscow toward a ceasefire.

In a field in Ukraine late last month, the commander of the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Separate Unmanned Aerial Systems Center said it was critical to seize the moment because the Ukrainian military's advantage might not last.

As long as it does, "the main idea is for Russia to truly feel war, to know that distance does not provide safety," said the commander, who under Ukrainian military protocol gave only his call sign, Whale.

The next day, Ukraine's General Staff announced successful strikes on Russian oil refineries, warehouses and air-defense systems in Russia and in occupied Ukraine.

Even as Ukraine finds itself in a hopeful moment, steep challenges remain.

Russia continues to ravage the cities in eastern Ukraine that make up the spine of its defense of the Donbas, the region most coveted by the Kremlin. After an intense campaign of strikes on Ukraine's energy infrastructure in the winter, Ukraine is concerned about a humanitarian catastrophe if the war drags into another brutal winter.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned recently that Ukraine's dwindling supply of Patriot air-defense interceptors had hit critical levels and that Moscow was taking advantage of that vulnerability to pummel Kyiv and other cities.

Ukraine's ability to maintain its momentum, soldiers said, depends on continuing to scale up weapons production.

Fedorov announced plans in May to spend more than $113 million to develop weapons for the "logistics lockdown" campaign.

More broadly, European nations have allocated $1.63 billion to Ukrainian drone production this year, outstripping the financing for all of 2025, according to the Kiel Institute, a German think tank.

The campaign aimed at Russian logistics is having its most visible results along the southern front, where geography favors the Ukrainians.

The area includes Russia's so-called land bridge to occupied Crimea, and Moscow relies on a roughly 185-mile stretch of exposed highways to supply its forces.

On Monday, the Ukrainian military said its drone operators had established aerial control over a section of the land route used by Russian forces, significantly complicating "logistics related to supplying the Russian army and fuel deliveries" to Crimea.

The only other connection between Russia and Crimea is the Kerch Bridge, which has come under repeated Ukrainian attack.

At the start of this year, Ukraine formulated a plan to isolate Russian forces, the commander of unmanned-systems forces in the 1st Azov Army Corps said in a statement.

By spring, he said, he was able to see the captured city of Mariupol — more than 60 miles from the front — through the lens of a piloted drone.

The Ukrainians modified a drone known as the Hornet to target Russian logistics. Because Hornets carry relatively small explosive payloads, they cannot penetrate heavily fortified or underground Russian ammunition warehouses. But, unlike missiles and bombs, the drones are controlled by a pilot, allowing Azov operators to target unarmored transport trucks and trains.

Fortified sites are attacked by other weapons, like powerful glide bombs. Ukraine recently announced the first successful test of a domestically produced glide bomb, which it said was capable of hitting targets, including fortified ones, "dozens of kilometers" away. Russia has used such bombs to devastating effect as it has razed Ukrainian cities.

The Ukrainian military claims to have struck hundreds of midrange targets over the past month. An independent Ukrainian open-source investigative project, Tochnyi, geolocated 130 strikes in May on military vehicles and supply-chain structures about 20 to 100 miles from the front.

The Azov commander said it was impossible for Russia to stretch out its air defenses and soldiers over the ever-growing distances that Ukrainian piloted drones could travel.

NEWS BRIEFING

Postal Service proposal ties mail ballot delivery to sharing of voter rolls

FROM NEWS SERVICES

The U.S. Postal Service has proposed a new rule that would allow it to refuse to deliver mail ballots in states that don't turn over voter rolls to the federal government.

The rule, proposed last week, is vaguely written but appears to establish broad authority for the agency to intervene in the mail voting process. It calls on states to compile lists of mail voters that Postal Service employees would use to screen ballots for eligibility. If states refuse to comply, the agency could refuse to send their mail ballots.

Democrats and voting rights groups say the proposed rule is clear evidence that the Trump administration is trying to unconstitutionally intrude on state-run elections.

Withholding some mail services in states where voters rely heavily on mail balloting could affect millions of Americans. And most of those affected would likely be Democrats, who disproportionately vote by mail because more Republicans have been convinced by President Donald Trump's unfounded claims that mail balloting is not reliable and invites fraud.

Screening mail ballots for voter eligibility, meanwhile, would amount to an unprecedented, and potentially unconstitutional, involvement of the federal government in the administration of elections. The proposed rule is vague, however, so it is unclear how the screening would work.

In recent oral arguments before a federal judge in Boston, a coalition of Democratic state attorneys general and multiple voting rights groups said the rule amounts to a federal intrusion into the voting process, which the Constitution dictates is the domain of the states. They also argued that it would be expensive, cumbersome and chaotic to comply with the demand to create new lists of voters and, in some cases, to change mail ballot designs, with fewer than 150 days until the 2026 general election.

The rule is consistent with an executive order Trump signed in March effectively instructing the Postal Service not to deliver election mail unless states comply with other aspects of the president's order, including handing over the voter lists.

Postal experts said the order also threatens the service's independence.

The proposed rule is currently open for a 30-day comment period. The executive order calls on the Postal Service to issue a final rule by the end of July.

Precision drills: A team from Oman on Thursday competes in the British Army's All Arms International Pace Sticking Competition. Military personnel strive to execute precision drills in as perfect synchronization as possible during the event at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in Surrey, England. **ANDREW MATTHEWS/PA**

Pope on migrants' rights: Pope Leo XIV traveled to a once-notorious epicenter of the European migration debate on Thursday, challenging countries to uphold migrants' rights while shaming those leaders, including Christians, who turn them away with indifference.

Leo issued an impassioned plea to recognize the dignity of migrants from the port of Arguineguín, in the Canary Islands. In 2020, the port was dubbed "dock of shame" because of the squalid conditions migrants were forced to live in for months during a spike in arrivals.

"Human dignity has no passport and does not lose its value when crossing a border," Leo said, with rescue ships docked behind him and a simple wooden cross made from a shipwrecked migrant boat nearby.

Leo is spending the final two days of his weeklong trip to Spain in the Canary Islands, a Spanish archipelago closer to Africa than the Iberian Peninsula and a key point of entry for migrants who make the perilous Atlantic crossing from West Africa.

He is fulfilling a wish of Pope Francis to visit the islands to commemorate the thousands of lives lost at sea.

UK defense chief quits: U.K. Defense Secretary John Healey unexpectedly quit Thursday, saying the government is unwilling to spend enough on the military at a time of "rising threats." The resignation dealt another blow to embattled Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who is already facing demands from Labour colleagues to step down.

Healey told Starmer in a letter that the government's Defense Investment Plan falls "well short of what is required at this dangerous time." Publication of the plan has been delayed amid reports of disagreement between the Defense Ministry and the Treasury.

Starmer said in a letter to Healey that he was sorry to see him go, but insisted that the funding plan would provide "sustainable and fair" spending increases that would keep the U.K. safe.

Late Thursday, Starmer appointed Dan Jarvis, formerly the security minister, to the defense post.

US sanctions Cuba: The U.S. government Thursday announced sanctions against Cuba's state-owned oil and gas company in a move some experts say will deepen the island's crises and hit vulnerable Cubans the hardest.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio asserted that key assets of the company, Cupet, were "unlawfully expropriated from American owners years ago." He also accused Cuba's government of weaponizing energy.

He further noted, without providing evidence, that Cuban officials "resell countless barrels of scarce energy on the secondary market, hoarding energy supplies for its military, intelligence and repressive forces, and rationing energy as a tool of social control."

Bruno Rodríguez, Cuba's foreign affairs minister, pushed back against Rubio's comments in a post on X.

"The US Secretary of State, driven by ambitions of conquest, presidential aspirations, and the vindictive sentiments of the elitist clique that propelled his political career, is now further tightening the economic and energy blockade against Cuba," he wrote.

Cuba's government has previously said that sanctions punish all Cubans and are aimed at strangling the economy to destabilize both the government and its people.

Toronto officer killed: A Toronto police officer was shot and killed Thursday by a suspect in the inquiry into a shooting that damaged the facade of the U.S. Consulate in the Canadian city in March, police said.

One 19-year-old suspect was in custody at a hospital in critical condition while officers searched for a second suspect, identified as Zara Jabbi, 19, Toronto police Chief Myron Demkiw said.

Officer Marc Pinizotto, who was 43 and had been on the force for 18 years, died in a hospital, Demkiw said.

Canadian police had said in March that two individuals emerged from a white Honda RV SUV at around 4:30 a.m. and fired multiple shots at the consulate before fleeing.

The investigation that led to Pinizotto's death involved several search warrants executed this morning," Demkiw said.

Philippine earthquake: The mayor of Glan, a southern Philippine town devastated by a powerful earthquake, pleaded Thursday for helicopters to transport food to stave off hunger in several landslide-isolated villages.

"Choppers are needed to transport food because people there are already very hungry," Mayor Victor James Yap said.

The 7.8 magnitude offshore quake, one of the strongest to hit the Philippines in a half-century, struck Monday off the southern province of Sarangani and killed 47 people, injured 688 and left 31 still missing.

Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche, left, and Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin address the migrant children issue Thursday in D.C. **MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP**

Trump administration digs into 'super-sponsors' of migrant kids

By Alanna Durkin Richer and Valerie Gonzalez
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has identified more than 15,000 cases of adults gaining custody of multiple immigrant children who enter the U.S. without a parent, officials said Thursday, signaling a potential push to prosecute prolific child sponsors.

The Justice Department highlighted cases against three Guatemalan nationals that they say underscore the dangers of improper vetting of sponsors in a program that seeks to unite kids with relatives or family friends after they enter the U.S.

Officials said they are investigating numerous other "super-sponsors" — those who gained custody of more than three unrelated children — to determine whether the sponsors took the kids in fraudulently.

"We will not accept half measures when it comes to securing the border, protecting American lives and saving children from exploitation," acting Attorney General Todd Blanche told reporters.

Taking custody of multiple unrelated migrant children is not a crime. The sponsors may be caring and well-intentioned, but senior administration officials calling them out suggests that authorities harbor suspicion about them and may subject them to deeper scrutiny.

Under the Biden administration, officials tried to release children to eligible adult sponsors within 30 days, reuniting many families quickly. But the approach also yielded errors, with some children being released to adults who forced them to work illegally, or to people who provided clearly false identification and addresses.

Under Trump, the administration tightened rules aimed at preventing traffickers from illegally bringing children into the country and that has also led to a dramatic increase in federal custody times for kids.

As of May, children are held in federal custody for an average of 206 days before they're released, compared with an average of 37 days when Trump took office. At the same time, the number of total children in custody has steadily dropped.

Striking a balance to release children to vetted sponsors and shielding them from danger has proved a contentious partisan disagreement.

Democrats "want to claim that Republicans, because we're enforcing the laws, it's inhumane, somehow," Blanche said after criticizing the vetting procedures under the Biden administration.

The cases announced Thursday include charges against a woman who, authorities say, was living in the U.S. illegally, schemed with others to smuggle kids across the border, then used fake identities to gain custody of them in exchange for money.

Her attorney, Michael Goldberg, said "the only comment I can make is that the case will be tried in court and not in a press conference."

In another case, a woman is accused of falsely claiming she was siblings with a teen who had entered the United States illegally in her application to become the teen's sponsor.

But Shaina Aber, executive director of the Acacia Center for Justice, which provides legal services for unaccompanied migrant children under contract with the government, said the administration has not acknowledged the harm it has caused to kids by "subjecting them to indefinite detention and eroding nearly every avenue for legal relief."

SpaceX's valuation of $1.77T pie in sky, some say before IPO

By Ryan Mac and Mike Isaac
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A wall in the lobby of Morgan Stanley's global headquarters Thursday reads "Morgan Stanley Welcomes SpaceX" in New York City. **CHARLY TRIBALLEAU/GETTY-AFP**

In a pitch to private investors, Elon Musk once predicted that one of his companies would quintuple its revenue to more than $26 billion and quintuple its customer base by 2028.

That company was Twitter and those projections were made as Musk prepared to buy the company for $44 billion in 2022.

Today, Twitter, which has been renamed X, has fallen far short of what Musk said would happen. The social media platform's ad revenue plunged 65% last year. It was folded into SpaceX, Musk's rocket company, this year.

Now as SpaceX readies for a blockbuster initial public offering, Musk and his investment bankers are selling even loftier propositions about what the rocket and artificial intelligence company will achieve.

But those proclamations, coupled with Musk's history of overpromising, have some investors increasingly worried that SpaceX — which could go public at a $1.77 trillion valuation — may burn them.

"It really does feel very much a 'don't look at the man behind the curtain' situation," said Jim Chanos, the founder of the investment firm Chanos and Co., who predicted the 2001 collapse of Enron, the company that was found to have engaged in accounting fraud.

Chanos and others said they were concerned with SpaceX's finances. The company lost $4.3 billion in the first three months of the year and is spending heavily on AI development. Revenue was $4.7 billion and growing, but it was lower than that of tech giants like Meta, which brought in $56.3 billion in the same period and has a stock market valuation of $1.4 trillion.

At the same time, SpaceX has promised that its total addressable market — which is its revenue opportunity if it captured all the demand across its various industries — is the largest "in human history" at $28.5 trillion. The figure, which depends on SpaceX proving that it can put AI data centers in space and develop factories on the moon, dwarfs China's annual gross domestic product by more than $8 trillion.

Michael Burry, a hedge fund investor featured in the book "The Big Short" for his predictions on the 2008 financial crisis, said in a Substack discussion last month that any hike in SpaceX's stock after its IPO would "be on hype and technicals."

"Nothing in that S-1 suggests it is worth $1 trillion let alone $2 trillion," Burry wrote, referring to the company's IPO filing.

A SpaceX spokesperson did not return a request for comment. SpaceX's bankers, including Goldman Sachs, which is leading the IPO process, have added to the sweeping projections. The Financial Times earlier reported that Goldman had told a potential investor that it expected SpaceX's total revenue to reach $474 billion in 2030, up from $18.7 billion last year. Morgan Stanley, which is also working on the IPO, said in an analysis shared with investors that it anticipated SpaceX's revenue would hit $3.4 trillion by 2040, according to The Wall Street Journal. A spokesperson for Goldman declined to comment. Morgan Stanley did not return a request for comment.

Morningstar, an investment research company, issued a more sober analysis. The firm said that SpaceX's IPO price was "overvalued" and that the company was worth around $780 billion. Nicolas Owens, a Morningstar equity researcher, gave SpaceX a 7% chance of getting its latest rocket, Starship, to a point where it can be used over and over again like a regular plane, and proving that AI data centers were cheaper and more effective than their terrestrial counterparts.

"We'll know in two to three years if Starship is reusable or a GPU rack in space will be viable or offer some cost savings," he said, referring to the computer chips used to power AI technology. "But the company is asking everyone to decide on Friday if that's possible and what it's worth."

Musk has also shown a propensity to change his business goals on the fly, investors said. It was not until last year that he spoke of data centers in space, and he doubled down on the idea in February after merging SpaceX with his AI company, xAI.

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Sports

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Cubs right fielder Seiya Suzuki flips his bat as he heads up the first-base line after hitting a grand slam against the Rockies in the fourth inning on Thursday in Denver. **DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP**

CUBS 9, ROCKIES 3

Suzuki, Bregman deliver big

By Meghan Montemurro
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

DENVER — Even after Alex Bregman broke through with the type of power that has been lacking too often this season, the Chicago Cubs third baseman still wasn't satisfied.

Bregman's two-run home run in the seventh inning Thursday was one of four Cubs extra-base hits in a 9-3 win over the Colorado Rockies to avoid a sweep at Coors Field and move back over .500. Seiya Suzuki delivered the first big blow, connecting on an 0-1 slider from Rockies starter Ryan Feltner for a grand slam that put the Cubs ahead 4-1 in the fourth. They added a pair of runs in the fifth inning, and catcher Carson Kelly capped their scoring with a solo home run in the eighth.

Bregman's homer, his sixth of the season, was his first with a runner on base. Still, he wasn't satisfied. Bregman felt he should have homered on either of the first two pitches left over the plate in his second at-bat that resulted in a popout.

"The whole series was better, still missed too many pitches in the heart of the plate," Bregman said. "Normally I have a 1.000 to 1.200 OPS in the middle of the plate. Right now, it's not there. It's god-awful. So today was a step in the right direction."

See **CUBS** on Page C3

UP NEXT

Cubs at Giants
9:15 p.m., Friday
Marquee

BULLS

Adam Amin, right, laughs alongside Stacey King before a Bulls-Pistons game Dec. 30, 2022, at the United Center. **MICHAEL BLACKSHIRE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Reigniting Bulls nation

How Stacey King — always 'the life of the party' — breathed new life into the fanbase

By Julia Poe
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

As a broadcaster, Stacey King always took his time on game day.

If a game tipped off at 7 p.m., King typically walked through the doors of the United Center at 6:45. Once, longtime Chicago Sports Network and NBC Sports Chicago producer Marc Brady swears, King cut it so close that he didn't make it to the sideline until three minutes before the show went live on the air.

This could be maddening for a producer. But Brady learned there were two guarantees when it came to King: He was never late, and he was never off.

"I finally got to the point where I wouldn't sit there and sweat and worry," Brady told the Tribune. "After a while I realized that we only needed one take to get it done because he was going to nail it every darn time."

If King started his game days a little later, however, it was only because he was on a different timeline. For him, the second half of any worknight began the moment the final horn sounded.

When King took off his headset, he would turn to greet the nearest fan. A line often formed, Bulls fans extending hands wrapped around jerseys and miniature basketballs to be signed, craning their necks to fit into selfies with the former NBA big man.

Security personnel at the United Center knew the drill, letting fans get a little closer to center court than normal. On the road, King often had to wave off a guard to let an eager fan through. Sometimes he wouldn't wrap up with the final fan until the hardwood had been peeled away behind him, revealing the ice for an impending Blackhawks game.

In the wake of King's death Sunday at age 59, these long post-game hours became a common thread among a fandom that spans generations and decades. Every Bulls fan in the city, it seemed, had a picture with King. It wasn't hard to acquire. He spent two careers — as a player and a broadcaster — attempting to connect with every person who walked through the doors of the United Center.

See **KING** on Page C6

Bears safety Dillon Thieneman stretches during minicamp on Tuesday at Halas Hall in Lake Forest. **STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

BEARS

What we learned as minicamp wraps up

Thieneman working out with the 1st team

By Brad Biggs
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The Chicago Bears wrapped up their offseason program with the third and final day of minicamp, finishing just before storms arrived at Halas Hall on Thursday afternoon.

Coach Ben Johnson praised players for their attentiveness during the spring, which the Bears believe will have them well ahead when training camp opens in July. That's when the process of learning systems on both sides of the ball gets replaced with a focus on details and fundamentals.

Evaluations are happening daily, but training camp is when the team starts assembling a depth chart, identifying battles for spots on the back end of the 53-man roster and assessing the few spots where a starting job is up for grabs. That's a short list led by left tackle and potentially cornerback opposite Jaylon Johnson. Of course, that's assuming nickel cornerback Kyler Gordon, who missed nearly the entire offseason program with a soft-tissue injury, is back on the field and can remain there.

"This spring was about learning and about communication," Ben Johnson said. "Camp is really where we're earning a spot on the 53. We'll carve out our roles. Those are a couple positions that we'll certainly have our eye on. And there will be several others where there are spots up for grabs.

See **BEARS** on Page C2

WORLD CUP 2026
AT A GLANCE

Raúl Jiménez, front, celebrates after scoring for Mexico in its win over South Africa on Thursday. **RODRIGO OROPEZA/GETTY-AFP**

OPENING ACT: Co-host Mexico delighted a capacity crowd of 80,824 at Azteca Stadium with a 2-0 win over South Africa in the first match of the tournament.

GOAL IS MORE GOALS: The U.S. will need more scoring from its strikers if the team wants to advance further than it did at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. **Page 2**

MORE ONLINE: Find more World Cup stories and stats with this QR code.

Coming up

Team	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
CUBS	**@SF |** 9:15 p.m.	Marquee	**@SF |** 9:05 p.m.	Marquee	**@SF |** 2:10 p.m.	ABC-7	**COL |** 7:05 p.m.	Marquee	**COL |** 7:05 p.m.	Marquee
WHITE SOX	**LAD |** 6:40 p.m.	CHSN	**LAD |** 3:10 p.m.	CHSN	**LAD |** 1:10 p.m.	CHSN, The U		**@NYY |** 6:05 p.m.	CHSN
SKY					**Next game |** Wednesday vs. NY
FIRE					**Next game |** July 16 vs. VAN
STARS					**Next game |** July 5 vs. UTA

CHICAGO BASEBALL REPORT

Newcomers add to Sox vibe

By Meghan Montemurro and Paul Sullivan
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The White Sox began Thursday in first place for the first time since the end of the 2021 season, while the Cubs were struggling to get back on track after falling from 15 games over on May 9 to .500 entering their series finale in Denver.

It has been a roller-coaster season on both sides of town, with one team going up and the other down since they met in the City Series last month.

Both teams figure to be busy at the trade deadline, though if the Cubs don't answer the "wake-up" call Jameson Taillon recently issued, they're likely to be sellers instead of buyers.

CHANGE OF DIRECTION

The White Sox are still in the developmental stage with players, and general manager Chris Getz said "that's been the primary focus" of the season. But with the Sox contending, Getz said "it would be unfair to what these guys have been doing" not to try to improve the team at the trade deadline or through the waiver wire.

Fortunately, many fans are offering suggestions on social media.

"There are some good ideas out there," Getz said with a laugh. "We're not going to dismiss any of these ideas. The ones thrown out there are pretty good."

Twelve Sox players have made their major-league debuts in the first 2½ months, including top outfield prospect Braden Montgomery, who was made comfortable on his first day and wound up being one of only five players to hit a walk-off home run in his MLB debut. And manager Will Venable said left-hander Hagen Smith, 22, could be called up this weekend for his first big-league outing.

"That's a special thing about our group," manager Will Venable said. "There's a vibe, there's an atmosphere and environment which they created that I think is very easy (for newcomers) to show up and to be part of. It's very open and welcoming, and I know our guys are excited when these guys come up and I'm excited to include them in everything.

"On the other side, our player development groups with these young guys have done a good job of making them prepared for this. The alignment we have in Triple A with (Charlotte manager) Chad Pinder and the group down there makes the transition a lot easier."

READY FOR HIS NEXT CHANCE

Javier Assad didn't think too much of the Cubs adjusting his start last week at Triple-A Iowa to last only one inning.

The Cubs recalled him over the weekend to give them length if needed, and Assad came in handy Sunday when Jameson Taillon exited in the second inning with a hamstring strain. Assad threw 6 ⅓ shutout innings while allowing just one hit and one walk against the San Francisco Giants. With Taillon expected to be out until after the mid-July All-Star break and Matthew Boyd not ready to come back this weekend, Assad gets another big-league shot having split time between the majors and Triple A this year.

"It's always taking advantage of every opportunity you're given and giving my absolute best whatever it is that I'm at," Assad told the Tribune through an interpreter. "Obviously I'd like to be here, this is where I'd like to be, but those decisions are not made by me.

"If they send me down, just keep giving my absolute best."

The Cubs announced Assad as Friday's starter for their series opener in San Francisco. They had been weighing whether to go with an opener and follow with Assad as the bulk pitcher. No matter his role, he has largely thrived however the Cubs have used him since debuting in 2022. Assad owns a career 3.54 ERA in 87 big-league games, including 57 starts.

"Probably a lot of it is how Javy had to get here and never necessarily been a guy and realizing he had to keep proving it, and he's still got to keep proving it, and probably better yet, he's good with I've got to keep proving it," manager Craig Counsell said Wednesday. "And that's how you keep getting chances."

NUMBER OF THE WEEK: 9

White Sox ace Davis Martin has nine wins in his first 13 starts. Last year, Martin and Shane Smith tied for the team lead with seven wins, and no Sox pitcher has won more than nine since Dylan Cease had 14 in 2022.

WEEK AHEAD: CUBS

- Friday: at Giants, 9:15 p.m., Marquee
- Saturday: at Giants, 9:05 p.m., Marquee
- Sunday: at Giants, 3:10 p.m., ABC-7
- Monday: vs. Rockies, 7:05 p.m., Marquee
- Tuesday: vs. Rockies, 7:05 p.m., Marquee
- Wednesday: vs. Rockies, 7:05 p.m., Marquee
- Thursday: off

As Boyd's original return from his meniscectomy this weekend in San Francisco was delayed because of shoulder soreness, there isn't much movement toward a return for four players who have been sidelined for weeks to months.

Right-hander Hunter Harvey (right triceps inflammation) still has a ways to go to return. He currently is rehabbing at the team's complex in Mesa, Ariz., but Counsell said Wednesday that there is "nothing that would warrant progress, like near-term progress" for the reliever. Left-hander Riley Martin (flexor tendon strain) is starting to build up by playing catch, and everything is going according to schedule.

Veteran infielder Tyler Austin signed a one-year, $1.25 million contract in the offseason after spending the last six years playing in Japan, but his Cubs tenure could be over before ever taking an at-bat. Austin hasn't been making a lot of progress since his knee surgery in spring training, making him questionable to return before the end of the season.

The most encouraging news: Top pitching prospect Jaxon Wiggins (elbow inflammation) has progressed to throwing live batting practice, and Counsell said he is probably close to pitching in games soon. Wiggins hasn't pitched for Iowa since April 4, one of his two starts this season.

WEEK AHEAD: WHITE SOX

- Friday: vs. Dodgers, 6:40 p.m., CHSN
- Saturday: vs. Dodgers, 3:10 p.m., CHSN
- Sunday: vs. Dodgers, 1:10 p.m., CHSN, WCIU-Ch. 26
- Monday: off
- Tuesday: at Yankees, 6:05 p.m., CHSN
- Wednesday: at Yankees, 6:05 p.m., CHSN
- Thursday: at Yankees, 6:05 p.m., CHSN

The Sox continue the "Survivor" part of their schedule — 12 games against four of the best teams in baseball — with a three-game series against the two-time-defending champion Los Angeles Dodgers, followed by a three-game series in New York against the Yankees.

Venable has been able to switch up his leverage pitchers, after Seranthony Domínguez was brought in as the closer and converted 11 of his first 14 save opportunities. Grant Taylor closed out a win in Philadelphia on Saturday, and left-hander Bryan Hudson was employed as the closer Wednesday against the Atlanta Braves.

Taylor said they prepare for any situation every day.

"I just go down to the bullpen and talk to the bullpen coach about where my pocket is, what situations I might throw in," Taylor said. "Pretty much I'm ready from the fifth (inning) on, and I just kind of feel the game."

Venable said the situation is "more fluid" these days as he and his staff try to find the right person for the right pockets.

"We're trying to do our best to be really proactive on a daily basis, regardless of roles," Venable said. "Like, 'Here are spots in this lineup in this game we might call upon,' whether it's Grant or Seranthony or whoever. We just want to be transparent and proactive. The great thing about our guys is they're all open, regardless of what their titles might be, in contributing in any way possible. ... Sometimes maybe that doesn't line up exactly, like in Ser's case, to the traditional closer role. But he's been great and open to pitching in different spots."

QUOTABLE

"It's 13 individual hitters trying to figure out their own plans, and we have a good team game plan going in, and what we want to do, righties and lefties, but every guy's got their own things that they're working on, and so that's part of working through a season is just everybody's working as hard as they can to get it right." — *Ian Happ on the Cubs' offensive struggles*

BEARS

from Page C1

Special teams is a big part of what we do as well. So I can't wait for that to start to get ramped up because I think that brings out the best in everybody as well.

"We'll have a plan in place, in terms of do we need a rotation or do we need to just let it fly. And if we're seeing some guys rise up and start making plays with the twos and threes, we'll probably take a look and see what it looks like with the ones as well over the course of training camp. Those are good decisions to make down the line. But I feel really good about where we're at."

Veterans know they're in store for at least a few grueling practices in training camp. That's the approach Johnson took last year, and while that's not out of the ordinary for first-year coaches as they seek to establish a culture, it sounds like the plan won't change much in Year 2.

"We're still going through the weeds of what the training camp schedule is going to look like," Johnson said. "I'm hoping (in) the next few days to put a stamp on a few things. You know, you've got to pay a price. You've got to make deposits if you want to have success in this league. I've been in it 15 years now. I don't think there's any way you can cut corners and expect to win on Sundays.

"Training camp is a big part of that. Our guys understand that. They know what they're walking into. I think our type of guys, they embrace it, they want it. So I'm looking forward to it."

Here are three things we learned Thursday.

FIRST-ROUND PICK DILLON THIENEMAN FOUND HIMSELF WITH THE STARTING DEFENSE

The Bears have been intentional about bringing Thieneman along. Nothing is handed to anyone, but he has been sprinkled in with the starters at safety as the offseason program went along, including during the two-minute drill Wednesday.

"It just comes with being in this sport," Thieneman said. "You've got to work to earn your job and you've got to work to keep your job. There's always going to be someone coming up, someone trying to replace you or someone trying to keep their job, so you've got to fight every day."

Free-agent addition Coby Bryant was not seen at practice, so Thieneman paired with veteran Elijah Hicks, who projects to be the top backup at safety. There's a good chance Thieneman will be working regularly with the first team early in training camp. Transferring from Purdue to Oregon a year ago and having to learn a new system prepared him a little for the transition he's experiencing.

"I kind of know what works and what doesn't work for me," he said.

The Bears have had plenty of success with rookie safeties over the years. Mike Brown is arguably the best safety the Bears have had in the post-Super Bowl XX era. A second-round pick in 2000, he started all 16 games that season.

Six other safeties since Brown have started more than half of the games as a rookie: Chris Harris (13 games in 2005), Al Afalava (13 in 2009), Chris Conte (nine in 2011), Adrian Amos (16 in 2015), Eddie Jackson (16 in 2017) and Jaquan Brisker (15 in 2022).

VETERAN KICKER CAIRO SANTOS HAD A BIG DAY

Santos made all five field goals in one period, including a 58-yarder, then was called on during a special period for a 60-yard attempt. With a crosswind in play, Santos nailed the kick despite a low snap.

His leg strength always has been more of a public debate than an internal one. In the last four seasons, Santos has made 23 field goals of 50-plus yards, the seventh-most in the NFL in that period. He has made 82.1% of attempts from 50 or more since 2022, the fifth-best percentage among those with at least 15 attempts.

There was also a high snap on a field goal Santos made from more than 50 yards out. A wave of big bodies on the sideline made it difficult to tell who was snapping each time. While the long snapper battle won't get the attention of the left tackle and cornerback competitions, that's a job that needs to sorted out.

Undrafted rookie Beau Gardner, who won the Patrick Mannelly Award as the nation's top long snapper at Georgia last season, and Luke Elkin, who was an undrafted rookie from Iowa last year, are the two in the mix right now. With neither having a single game of NFL experience, the coaching staff will be keeping a close eye on their performance.

BEN JOHNSON PLANS TO GET AWAY FOR A 'MINUTE' DURING BREAK BEFORE TRAINING CAMP

Surely, he'll take time to unwind and prepare for the grind ahead, but he's also fixing to dive into the offensive laboratory.

He talked about seeking ideas from new running backs coach Eric Studesville, who came from Miami. Former Dolphins coach Mike McDaniel was respected for a highly successful outside-zone running scheme that traces back to Kyle Shanahan and that coaching tree.

"I've always found the summer to be one of the better times in terms of getting ahead for the season," Johnson said. "We haven't done a whole lot exotic here. This offseason has been, as I talked about, fundamentals, technique. We're running fairly standard formations and plays at this point. We're trying to build the blocks from the ground up.

"This (summer) I'll be able to deep dive into some areas of interest for myself. I was just talking with Coach Studesville and he's got a wealth experience from a number of different places. But I can't wait to dive into his cut-ups that he's got from Miami. They did some really unique things, particularly in the run game over the last few years. That's one example right there. But we'll be able to make a lot of headway this summer."

It's interesting to hear Johnson discuss ways to add new elements to what was a very successful rushing attack last season. Perhaps there will be some new wrinkles come August.

WORLD CUP

US strikers know they must increase their goal production

U.S. forward Ricardo Pepi's shot is blocked by Senegal defenders during a friendly in May.
SCOTT KINSER/AP

By Greg Beacham
ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVINE, Calif. — Folarin Balogun chose to play for the United States precisely because of the opportunity he's about to get over the next few weeks.

Balogun could have stuck with England, where he grew up and with which he began his international career at the under-21 level. He also considered playing for his parents' Nigeria.

But three years ago, the goal-scoring striker chose to represent the country in which he was born — and instead of being stuck behind Harry Kane and Ollie Watkins with the Three Lions, the 24-year-old Balogun is likely to be an important player for the Americans in their home World Cup.

"I feel like my individual journey is a bit full circle now, approaching the World Cup," Balogun said earlier this week at the U.S. training base in Irvine, California. "Especially with the World Cup being here, the opportunity to represent my nation in front of a home crowd is going to be something special for me, for my family, for my friends and for the team. I'm definitely looking forward to it, and very proud."

Balogun's decision was a coup for the U.S. because of his elite skill — he scored 19 goals for Ligue 1's Monaco this season — but also because he does a job that the American team has historically struggled to fill.

Ever since the U.S. began to achieve regular World Cup qualification nearly four decades ago, one big problem has prevented the Americans from making any additional progress: They can't win because they don't score enough.

A nation brimming with world class athletes across the entire spectrum of sports has struggled to consistently produce soccer scorers, particularly the elite strikers who generate goals, excitement and wins.

The U.S. scored three goals in four matches at the Qatar World Cup four years ago, with just one coming from a striker. It's a generational issue: In their last eight World Cups since 1990, the Americans have scored a paltry 28 goals in 30 matches.

But the forwards likely to be at the front of the American formation this month are eager to prove they can change things, starting in the U.S. opener against Paraguay on Friday night at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California.

Balogun and fellow striker Ricardo Pepi both have solid credentials in European club play, and they're entering the World Cup in strong form, with Pepi also coming off a 19-goal season for PSV Eindhoven.

Haji Wright, a Los Angeles native, scored that lone striker's goal for the U.S. in Qatar — even if he maybe did it accidentally — and he has improved since then, racking up 18 goals last season while Coventry earned promotion to the Premier League.

"We see this as a fantastic opportunity to play in front of our country," said Pepi, who wears the No. 9 shirt. "The pressure aside, we see it more as an opportunity."

Pepi has 13 goals in 37 appearances for the U.S.

WHITE SOX 2, BRAVES 1 (LATE WEDNESDAY)

First place follows statement victory

Sox atop the division after 2nd straight win vs. MLB-best Braves

By Jeff Vorva
FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The White Sox's Luisangel Acuña, left, and Chase Meidroth celebrate the win over the Braves on Wednesday. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Davis Martin talked about the first-place Chicago White Sox.

That's right, the first-place White Sox. The team that lost 100-plus games the last three years is atop the American League Central this late in the season for the first time since 2021.

"Being on the team in '24 and '25, you know how hard it is to come to the park with some of those teams," Martin said. "But now, every time you come through the parking lot and know that you have a chance to win the game, that really just fires you up.

"It makes all the days worth it. It makes the long road trips worth it. We have a bunch of entertainers and a bunch of guys who make each other laugh. You are super excited to come to the yard every day."

The Sox also were jacked up after they knocked off the Atlanta Braves — the team with the major leagues' best record — for a second straight night with a 2-1 victory Wednesday in front of 14,627 at Rate Field.

Martin (9-2) threw six shutout innings, allowing six hits and striking out six. He outdueled 2024 Cy Young Award winner and former Sox star Chris Sale (8-5), who gave up two runs in 5 ⅔ innings.

"I gave myself a little bit of time to look up at (the scoreboard), and they had our career stats," Martin said. "They had mine at 250 punchouts and he had 3,000 or 2,000 or something like that. Some crazy big number.

"And I was just like, 'Man, this is fun.' This is who you want to play against and this is why you want to be in the big leagues."

The Sox moved a half-game in front of the Cleveland Guardians thanks in part to rookie Braden Montgomery's two doubles, while Derek Hill and Luisangel Acuña each drove in runs in the fourth.

Montgomery burst onto the scene with a walk-off home run in his major-league debut Tuesday night, and the switch hitter smacked a double right-handed off Sale and left-handed off James Karinchak.

"(Sale) is obviously one of the greats in the game," Montgomery said, "so you've really got to find the balance between (blocking) out that you are playing against a Hall of Famer and locking in and trying to put together quality at-bats to get a win."

Shortstop Colson Montgomery missed his second straight game with back tightness, saying he experienced some discomfort two weeks ago but played through it. He was planning to return Thursday.

"It's nothing to worry about," Colson Montgomery said. "We're just trying to get ahead of it, so we thought this was the best thing to do. It was getting to the point where it was getting more painful and less manageable. That's why we thought big picture and see where we're at.

"If it starts affecting me with my life and my day-to-day stuff, that's when I need to start thinking about stuff."

Meanwhile, he said he wished he could have played in Tuesday's 6-5, 10-inning win in which Braden Montgomery hit the dramatic home run.

"I had FOMO last night," said Colson Montgomery, using the phrase Fear of Missing Out. "What Braden did was awesome."

Colson Montgomery made his debut last summer and has proved to be a strong hitter and defensive player. He laughed when told people are calling Braden the better Montgomery.

"There is no rivalry," the shortstop said. "He's like my brother. That's how we go about that relationship. We're good friends. We spent time in spring training and we're all getting to know him."

This series has produced some interesting exchanges in the Acuña family. Ronald Jr., a Braves outfielder, and Luisangel, a Sox infielder, had played on the same major-league field against each other just once before Tuesday. They were part of the pregame lineup exchange in the series opener.

With two outs in the second inning Tuesday, Ronald was hit by a pitch. He tried to steal second but was tagged out by his younger brother, who has been subbing at shortstop for Colson Montgomery.

"He said I was tricking him because I didn't tag him," Luisangel said through an interpreter. "It's exciting for me to play against him because when I was a kid, I would dream about playing here (in the majors) with him or against him. We were able to make that dream come true."

But in the fifth, Ronald suffered a hamstring injury running out a grounder, and the Braves on Wednesday placed him on the 10-day injured list.

Luisangel had two hits and an RBI on Wednesday, stole third base in the seventh and was tagged out at the plate on a fielder's choice.

Jeff Vorva is a freelance reporter for the Chicago Tribune.

ROCKIES 3, CUBS 2 (LATE WEDNESDAY)

Cubs fall back down to .500

Lose on walk-off to league's worst team

By Meghan Montemurro
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Cubs shortstop Dansby Swanson looks on from the dugout in the ninth inning against the Rockies on Wednesday in Denver. **DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP**

DENVER — The Chicago Cubs dugout seemed stunned watching the scene.

The Colorado Rockies mobbed pinch hitter Sterlin Thompson near first base, celebrating a 3-2 walk-off victory over the Cubs in the bottom of the ninth inning Wednesday. Cubs players slowly walked off the field while some stayed on the bench, staring out at the field. Even some coaches and support staff hung around briefly.

Perhaps the reality of the Cubs' situation was sinking in.

The loss dropped the Cubs to .500, a place they hadn't been in nearly two months, when they were two wins into their first 10-game winning streak April 15. They secured their 10th consecutive series loss Wednesday. The worst team in baseball was on the verge of sweeping them.

Thursday's starter, Edward Cabrera, was among the last to leave the Cubs dugout, seated near the railing with his eyes fixed on the Rockies' joy.

Everything feels bleak for a Cubs team operating on the slimmest of margins while a lineup-wide slump makes scoring runs feel impossible far too often. Left-hander Shota Imanaga's five shutout innings should have been enough for an offense facing a pitcher, Michael Lorenzen, who came in with an 8.01 ERA and a league-high 99 hits and 54 earned runs allowed.

Instead, Lorenzen held the Cubs to one run on two hits in five innings, with the only run coming on Moisés Ballesteros' sacrifice fly in the fourth.

"We didn't produce enough opportunities tonight," manager Craig Counsell said. "We had (five) hits, just very few at-bats with runners in scoring position, very few rallies, so it's a night offensively where we just didn't do enough."

Imanaga, in his first outing at Coors Field, became the fourth visiting Japanese-born pitcher to throw at least five scoreless innings in a start at the high-altitude ballpark, joining Yoshinobu Yamamoto (June 25, 2025), Kenta Maeda (April 23, 2016) and Hideo Nomo (Sept. 17, 1996). Imanaga limited the Rockies to two hits and two walks while striking out seven.

"I kept us in the game, but the last four starts I couldn't help the team win," Imanaga said through interpreter Edwin Stanberry. "Moving forward, just using today and thinking about it every time I'm out there and helping the team win."

The lack of run support put pressure on the bullpen to maintain the one-run lead after Imanaga departed. Phil Maton and Caleb Thielbar combined for two scoreless innings, and Jacob Webb, who has become the Cubs' most consistent reliever, took over in the eighth.

A one-out single and a two-run homer by TJ Rumfield put the Rockies ahead. Webb hadn't allowed a run since May 9 and hadn't surrendered multiple runs in an outing since April 5. It was the first home run he gave up since April 27.

"Every night's different," Counsell said, "and Webb, he's going to have one-run leads of a different nature, so I think he'd tell you he's got a job to do, but he's going to give up runs from time to time. He's been on an excellent run, and we didn't give our pitching staff enough room tonight and in the end that gets you here."

Ian Happ gave the Cubs hope they could pull out a late victory when he tied it in the top of the ninth with his 15th home run. The Cubs couldn't add any more, and the Rockies wasted no time putting pressure on Daniel Palencia in the bottom half. With runners on the corners and nobody out, Thompson sliced a single to right to end it.

While those moments in the eighth and ninth by the bullpen naturally garner focus, the Cubs' problems come back to the offense. Finding answers to their collective struggles isn't becoming any easier the longer the issues persist.

"The frustrating part for us, or the confusing part, is that we're still getting guys on base and not finding a way to get guys in," Happ said. "You look at baseball at the end of the year, the teams with the most guys left on base are going to be really good offenses. And so we don't want to leave guys on base, but the fact that we're getting guys on and giving ourselves opportunities, we're going to cash out at some point and we've got to keep believing that.

"The hardest part is getting out of your own way and just letting things happen, trusting your process."

CUBS

from Page C1

The Cubs hadn't slugged three home runs in a game since April 25, part of a four-week stretch to start the season of recording five games with three homers. Their nine runs in the win snapped a five-game streak of scoring three or fewer, which tied their longest such streak of the season. Right-hander Edward Cabrera did his part in the win, tossing 5 ⅓ innings and allowing two runs on solo homers.

"We have very good offensive players, I think they've shown that this year, so the length, yeah, it's surprising absolutely, and it's challenging," manager Craig Counsell said before the victory. "We're all trying to do our best to put it in the right direction. We haven't been able to come up with solutions so far.

"Our players are the source of the optimism. We have very talented, good players, and that absolutely creates optimism. There's going to be struggles, and sometimes they confuse you, but the talent of our players is the source of optimism."

It's arguably a tossup between Suzuki and Bregman as to who needed a home run more. Bregman has looked better at the plate lately, though the power isn't fully there and he's missing too many hittable pitches over the plate. After Thursday's performance, he has reached base in 31 of his last 35 games since May 3 (.327 on-base percentage).

"Happy to contribute to help our team win a baseball game," Bregman said. "We have maybe three guys playing to their potential, so we've got a lot of work to do, and we've got to be better. We're way better of a ball club than we've shown, so got to look in the mirror and figure out a way to get it done on the field, and that's my impression, we've got to play better. Today was a good step in the right direction, but win tomorrow and it's a winning streak."

Suzuki's third career grand slam extended his season-high hitting streak to eight games, during which he has posted a .308/.379/.654 slash line with three home runs and seven RBIs. The relief at coming through in that spot Thursday was quickly apparent as Suzuki let out fist pump as he started his trot toward first base.

"I felt like I haven't been able to help out our pitchers, they're pitching in tough situations," Suzuki said through interpreter Edwin Stanberry. "There's more sort of frustration that I had towards myself, not hitting in those opportunities, and I was finally able to get that hit."

Cubs third baseman Alex Bregman, right, is congratulated at the plate by Pete Crow-Armstrong after hitting a two-run home run in the seventh inning against the Rockies at Coors Field on Thursday in Denver. **JUSTIN EDMONDS/GETTY**

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	40	25	.615	—	—	5-5	W-3	24-9	16-16
New York	41	26	.612	—	+7½	6-4	W-4	19-12	22-14
Toronto	33	36	.478	9	1½	4-6	L-1	20-16	13-20
Baltimore	32	37	.464	10	2½	5-5	W-1	20-17	12-20
Boston	27	39	.409	13½	6	4-6	L-4	10-21	17-18

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Chicago	36	31	.537	—	—	6-4	W-2	22-11	14-20
Cleveland	37	33	.529	½	+2	3-7	L-4	17-17	20-16
Minnesota	31	39	.443	6½	4	4-6	L-1	18-18	13-21
Detroit	29	40	.420	8	5½	7-3	W-1	18-16	11-24
Kansas City	28	41	.406	9	6½	6-4	L-2	16-19	12-22

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Seattle	36	33	.522	—	—	6-4	L-1	19-16	17-17
Texas	34	34	.500	1½	—	7-3	W-2	17-14	17-20
Athletics	33	35	.485	2½	1	5-5	W-2	13-18	20-17
Houston	31	39	.443	5½	4	4-6	L-2	16-19	15-20
Los Angeles	27	42	.391	9	7½	4-6	W-2	15-19	12-23

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Atlanta	45	23	.662	—	—	6-4	L-2	22-11	23-12
Philadelphia	37	31	.544	8	+1½	7-3	W-1	19-17	18-14
Washington	35	34	.507	10½	1	5-5	L-1	12-20	23-14
Miami	34	35	.493	11½	2	8-2	W-5	23-16	11-19
New York	30	38	.441	15	5½	5-5	W-1	16-17	14-21

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Milwaukee	41	25	.621	—	—	6-4	L-2	21-13	20-12
St. Louis	37	29	.561	4	+2½	7-3	L-1	19-16	18-13
Pittsburgh	35	33	.515	7	½	5-5	W-1	19-16	16-17
Chicago	35	34	.507	7½	1	3-7	W-1	20-15	15-19
Cincinnati	32	35	.478	9½	3	3-7	L-1	16-16	16-19

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Los Angeles	43	25	.632	—	—	6-4	L-1	22-12	21-13
San Diego	35	32	.522	7½	—	3-7	W-1	19-19	16-13
Arizona	34	34	.500	9	1½	3-7	L-3	21-14	13-20
San Francisco	28	41	.406	15½	8	5-5	W-1	13-18	15-23
Colorado	26	43	.377	17½	10	4-6	L-1	14-20	12-23

BOX SCORES

Marlins 2, Diamondbacks 0

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Marte 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.248
Carroll rf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.280
Moreno dh	3	0	0	0	1	2	.260
Arenado 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.252
Perdomo ss	3	0	0	0	1	1	.241
Groover 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.211
Troy lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.240
A.Garcia c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.158
a-Del Castillo ph-c	0	0	0	0	0	1	.189
Barrosa cf	3	0	1	0	0	2	.172
Totals	**29**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**3**	**13**	

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Hicks dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	.265
Lopez ss	4	1	2	0	0	0	.344
Stowers 1b	2	1	0	0	2	2	.213
Edwards 2b	3	0	1	1	0	0	.304
Sanoja 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.260
Caissie rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.215
b-Hernández lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.227
Marsee cf	2	0	1	1	1	0	.205
Mack c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.244
Ruiz lf-rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.200
Totals	**27**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**3**	**4**	

ARI	**000**	**000**	**000**	**—**	**0**	**3**	**0**
MIA	**100**	**100**	**00x**	**—**	**2**	**5**	**1**

a-walked for A.Garcia in the 7th. b-flied out for Caissie in the 7th.

E: Stowers (3); **LOB:** Arizona 6, Miami 5; **2B:** Marte (13); **RBI:** Edwards (23), Marsee (17); **SB:** Lopez 2 (13), Marsee (17); **CS:** Lopez (3); **SF:** Edwards.

Runners left in scoring position: Arizona 3 (Perdomo, Arenado, Barrosa). Miami 3 (Edwards, Mack 2); **RISP:** Arizona 0 for 7. Miami 1 for 6.

GIDP: Groover.

DP: Miami 1 (Edwards, Stowers).

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kelly	6	4	2	2	2	1	74	5.46
B.Garcia	1	0	0	0	1	2	15	3.07
Sewald	1	1	0	0	0	1	16	3.33
Miami	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Phillips	5	2	0	0	2	5	70	1.86
Petersen	1	0	0	0	0	1	14	3.29
Bender	1	1	0	0	1	3	19	2.86
Faucher	1	0	0	0	0	2	13	3.58
Fairbanks	1	0	0	0	0	2	13	6.63

W: Phillips 1-1; **L:** Kelly 5-5; **SV:** Fairbanks 8-10

Inherited runners-scored: Petersen 1-0; **HBP:** Petersen (Carroll).

ABS Challenge: Kelly (Ball-Overturned to Strike); **Phillips (Ball-Overturned to Strike); Perdomo (Strike-Overturned to Ball); Phillips (Ball-Overturned to Strike); Stowers (Strike-Confirmed).**

Umpires: Home, Paul Clemons. First, John Tumpane. Second, Edwin Jimenez. Third, Ramon De Jesus.

T: 2:18; **A:** 8,580 (37,446).

Mets 5, Cardinals 4

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.248
Herrera dh	2	0	0	0	2	1	.262
Burleson 1b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.290
Walker rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.302
Nootbaar lf	4	1	2	1	0	0	.227
Winn ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.232
Crooks c	4	1	1	2	0	1	.182
Gorman 3b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.194
a-Torres ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.256
Church cf	4	0	1	0	0	3	.253
Totals	**34**	**4**	**7**	**4**	**2**	**9**	

New York	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Benge rf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.260
Bichette ss	4	1	1	2	0	0	.227
Soto dh	4	2	2	1	0	0	.277
Young 1b	4	1	2	2	0	0	.288
Ewing cf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.263
Semien 2b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.220
Baty 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.228
Alvarez c	3	0	1	0	0	1	.246
Melendez lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.200
Totals	**34**	**5**	**10**	**5**	**0**	**9**	

STL	**130**	**000**	**000**	**—**	**4**	**7**	**0**
NYM	**300**	**010**	**10x**	**—**	**5**	**10**	**0**

a-flied out for Gorman in the 9th.

LOB: St. Louis 5, New York 5; **2B:** Winn (9), Church (8), Nootbaar (2), Ewing (3), Soto (5); **HR:** Burleson (11), off Scott. Nootbaar (2), off Scott. Crooks (1), off Scott. Bichette (6), off Dobbins. Young (4), off Dobbins. Soto (14), off Romero; **RBI:** Burleson (48), Nootbaar (5), Crooks 2 (4), Bichette 2 (34), Young 2 (9), Soto (31).

Runners left in scoring position: St. Louis 3 (Herrera, Winn, Nootbaar). New York 2 (Semien 2); **RISP:** St. Louis 1 for 5. New York 1 for 4.

Runners moved up: Wetherholt.

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Dobbins	4⅓	7	3	3	0	5	88	3.63
Bruihl	⅓	2	1	1	0	1	10	4.55
Soriano	1⅓	0	0	0	0	1	8	2.93
Romero	1⅓	1	1	1	0	1	23	3.48
Graceffo	⅔	0	0	0	0	1	9	1.64
New York	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Scott	4⅔	7	4	4	1	6	88	3.10
Minter	1⅓	0	0	0	0	0	14	0.00
Raley	1	0	0	0	1	1	20	1.42
Weaver	1	0	0	0	0	0	11	2.40
Williams	1	0	0	0	0	2	16	5.32

W: Raley 2-1; **L:** Romero 0-2; **SV:** Williams 9-10

Inherited runners-scored: Soriano 1-0, Minter 2-0.

ABS Challenge: Soto (Strike-Confirmed); **Scott (Ball-Confirmed); Romero (Ball-Confirmed).**

Umpires: Home, Scott Barry. First, Junior Valentine. Second, Rob Drake. Third, Stu Scheuwater.

T: 2:39; **A:** 37,019 (42,136).

Late Wednesday: White Sox 2, Braves 1

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Harris cf	5	0	0	0	0	3	.306
Albies 2b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.280
Olson 1b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.272
Smith dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	.291
Dubón lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.261
Riley 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.206
Yastrzemski rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.234
Mateo ss	4	1	2	0	0	1	.300
Wynns c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.082
b-White ph	0	0	0	0	1	0	.205
Totals	**35**	**1**	**7**	**0**	**2**	**7**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Meidroth 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.273
Grichuk dh	2	0	1	0	1	0	.273
a-Benintendi ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	1	.234
Vargas 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.243
Quero c	4	0	0	0	0	3	.185
B.Montgomery rf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.444
Hill lf	4	1	1	1	0	2	.213
Gonzalez 1b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.308
Acuña ss	3	0	2	1	0	0	.200
Peters cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.298
Totals	**31**	**2**	**8**	**2**	**1**	**8**	

ATL	**000**	**000**	**100**	**—**	**1**	**7**	**1**
CHW	**000**	**200**	**00x**	**—**	**2**	**8**	**1**

a-struck out for Grichuk in the 7th. b-walked for Wynns in the 9th.

E: Riley (6), Vargas (4); **LOB:** Atlanta 10, Chicago 7; **2B:** Mateo (5), B.Montgomery 2 (2); **RBI:** Hill (8), Acuña (7); **SB:** Hill (7), Acuña (12); **CS:** Acuña (1).

Runners left in scoring position: Atlanta 5 (Smith, Dubón, Wynns 3). Chicago 3 (Hill, B.Montgomery, Quero); **RISP:** Atlanta 1 for 6. Chicago 1 for 10. Runners moved up: Grichuk, Gonzalez, Acuña.

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sale	5⅔	6	2	2	1	6	103	2.30
Fuentes	1	1	0	0	0	0	13	2.33
Lee	⅓	0	0	0	0	1	3	1.16
Karinchak	1	1	0	0	0	1	19	0.00
Chicago	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Martin	6	6	0	0	0	6	100	2.41
Newcomb	1	1	1	0	1	1	27	2.29
Domínguez	1	0	0	0	0	0	14	3.60
Hudson	1	0	0	0	1	0	16	2.32

W: Martin 9-2; **L:** Sale 8-5; **SV:** Hudson 3-4

Inherited runners-scored: Fuentes 1-0, Lee 1-0; **HBP:** Martin (Riley), Sale (Gonzalez).

ABS Challenge: Sale (Ball-Overturned to Strike); **Meidroth (Strike-Overturned to Ball); Hudson (Ball-Overturned to Strike). Pitch timer violations:** Peters (batter).

Umpires: Home, Chad Whitson. First, Brian Walsh. Second, Bill Miller. Third, Jonathan Parra.

T: 2:36; **A:** 14,622 (40,241).

Late Wednesday: Phillies 7, Blue Jays 4

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Schwarber dh	4	2	2	2	1	2	.239
Turner ss	5	0	1	0	0	3	.225
Harper 1b	4	3	2	1	1	0	.267
Marsh lf	4	0	0	0	1	1	.326
Bohm 3b	5	1	2	3	0	0	.226
Stott 2b	4	0	2	1	1	0	.230
Realmuto c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.200
García rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.195
Berroa rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.143
Crawford cf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.232
Totals	**37**	**7**	**10**	**7**	**5**	**9**	

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Springer dh	3	1	1	0	2	1	.204
Guerrero 1b	3	0	1	1	2	0	.282
Clement ss-2b	3	1	1	1	1	1	.304
Okamoto 3b	3	0	0	1	1	2	.230
Piñango lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.301
Valenzuela c	4	0	1	1	0	2	.252
McAdoo 2b	2	0	0	0	0	2	.188
a-Giménez ph-ss	2	0	0	0	0	0	.220
Straw cf	4	1	3	0	0	0	.257
Lukes rf	3	1	1	0	1	2	.311
Totals	**31**	**4**	**8**	**4**	**7**	**11**	

PHI	**103**	**200**	**100**	**—**	**7**	**10**	**1**
TOR	**000**	**001**	**300**	**—**	**4**	**8**	**0**

a-flied out for McAdoo in the 6th.

E: García (4); **LOB:** Philadelphia 8, Toronto 9; **2B:** Harper (12); **HR:** Harper (15), off Scherzer. Bohm (8), off Scherzer. Schwarber (24), off Fluharty; **RBI:** Harper (38), Bohm 3 (34), Schwarber 2 (42), Stott (31), Valenzuela (18), Guerrero (26), Clement (27), Okamoto (38); **SB:** Stott (12); **SF:** Clement, Okamoto.

Runners left in scoring position: Philadelphia 3 (García, Stott, Realmuto). Toronto 3 (Giménez, Clement, Okamoto); **RISP:** Philadelphia 2 for 10. Toronto 1 for 6.

Runners moved up: Harper; **GIDP:** Guerrero.

DP: Philadelphia 1 (Stott, Turner, Harper).

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Luzardo	5⅔	4	1	1	4	8	96	4.35
Bowlan	⅓	0	0	0	0	0	4	3.92
Shugart	⅓	1	3	3	3	0	21	3.48
Keller	⅔	0	0	0	0	0	3	3.38
Alvarado	1	1	0	0	0	2	19	5.25
Duran	1	2	0	0	0	1	10	1.99
Toronto	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Scherzer	3⅓	5	5	5	3	4	82	10.23
Fluharty	⅔	1	1	1	0	1	17	4.05
Nance	1	1	0	0	0	0	16	3.52
Hoffman	1	0	0	0	1	1	21	5.83
Fisher	⅓	2	1	1	1	1	27	2.78
Miles	1⅔	0	0	0	0	2	17	3.40
Rogers	1	1	0	0	0	0	14	2.03

W: Luzardo 5-4; **L:** Scherzer 1-4; **SV:** Duran 17-18

Inherited runners-scored: Bowlan 2-0, Keller 2-1, Fluharty 1-1, Miles 2-0.

Umpires: HP, Willie Traynor. First, Cory Blaser. Second, Jansen Visconti. Third, Alex Tosi. T: 3:12; **A:** 35,733 (39,150).

Cubs 9, Rockies 3

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstg cf	5	2	2	0	0	0	.257
Bregman 3b	4	2	1	2	1	1	.246
Busch 1b	4	1	2	1	0	0	.251
Happ lf	3	1	1	1	1	1	.231
Suzuki rf	4	1	1	4	0	2	.248
Hoerner 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.247
Ballesteros dh	3	0	1	0	0	0	.240
b-Shaw ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	1	.237
Kelly c	4	1	1	1	0	1	.282
Swanson ss	3	1	0	0	1	2	.178
Totals	**35**	**9**	**10**	**9**	**3**	**8**	

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Julien 2b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.227
Castro 3b-lf	5	0	2	0	0	0	.269
Rumfield 1b	3	0	1	0	2	1	.270
Goodman dh	5	0	0	0	0	3	.244
Johnston rf	4	0	3	0	0	0	.315
Carrigg cf	4	1	2	1	0	1	.273
Thompson lf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.229
a-Karros ph-3b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.226
Tovar ss	4	0	0	0	0	3	.211
Sullivan c	4	2	3	2	0	0	.231
Totals	**38**	**3**	**12**	**3**	**2**	**11**	

CHC	**000**	**420**	**210**	**—**	**9**	**10**	**0**
COL	**001**	**100**	**001**	**—**	**3**	**12**	**0**

a-flied out for Thompson in the 6th. b-struck out for Ballesteros in the 8th.

LOB: Chicago 4, Colorado 10; **2B:** Crow-Armstrong (9), Johnston (20), Rumfield (11); **HR:** Suzuki (10), off Feltner. Bregman (6), off Castaño. Kelly (3), off Peralta. Sullivan (2), off Cabrera. Carrigg (1), off Cabrera. Sullivan (3), off Ferguson; **RBI:** Suzuki 4 (26), Busch (38), Happ (36), Bregman 2 (22), Kelly (19), Sullivan 2 (11), Carrigg (1); **SB:** Castro (5), Crow-Armstrong (15), Ballesteros (1), Swanson (6), Happ (3); **CS:** Johnston (3); **SF:** Happ.

Runners left in scoring position: Chicago 2 (Suzuki, Kelly). Colorado 5 (Johnston, Tovar 2, Goodman 2); **RISP:** Chicago 4 for 7. Colorado 1 for 6. Runners moved up: Goodman; **GIDP:** Ballesteros. DP: Colorado 1 (Tovar, Rumfield).

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cabrera	5⅓	5	2	2	2	5	83	4.86
Milner	⅓	2	0	0	0	0	10	3.99
Maton	1	1	0	0	0	1	8	6.55
Rolison	1	1	0	0	0	2	17	2.25
Ferguson	1⅓	3	1	1	0	3	26	16.88
Colorado	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Feltner	4⅓	4	6	6	3	3	75	5.20
Castaño	2⅔	5	2	2	0	2	46	3.93
Peralta	2	1	1	1	0	3	26	10.13

W: Cabrera 4-3; **L:** Feltner 2-2.

Inherited runners-scored: Milner 1-0, Maton 3-0, Rolison 1-0, Ferguson 1-0, Castaño 2-2; **HBP:** Peralta (Busch).

ABS Challenge: Feltner (Ball-Overturned to Strike); **Feltner (Ball-Confirmed); Suzuki (Strike-Overturned to Ball); Rolison (Ball-Confirmed); Julien (Strike-Confirmed).**

Ejected: Counsell.

Umpires: Home, Louie Krupa. First, Chris Guccione. Second, David Rackley. Third, Nestor Ceja.

T: 2:50; **A:** 35,128 (50,144).

Late Wednesday: Cardinals 9, Mets 2

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	5	2	3	0	0	0	.252
Herrera c	3	2	1	0	2	1	.264
Burleson 1b	5	1	1	1	0	0	.291
Walker dh	5	1	2	4	0	1	.303
Nootbaar rf	4	0	0	0	1	2	.167
Winn ss	4	1	1	1	1	0	.231
Velázquez lf	4	1	1	2	0	1	.364
Church cf	4	1	0	0	0	1	.253
Fermín 3b	4	0	2	1	0	1	.261
Totals	**38**	**9**	**11**	**9**	**4**	**7**	

New York	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Benge rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.260
Bichette ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.227
Soto lf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.272
Young 1b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.274
a-Vientos ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.211
Semien 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.219
Ewing cf	2	1	0	0	1	0	.264
b-Wagaman ph	0	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Alvarez dh	4	1	1	2	0	2	.244
Baty 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.233
Torrens c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.214
Totals	**30**	**2**	**3**	**2**	**2**	**7**	

STL	**202**	**310**	**001**	**—**	**9**	**11**	**0**
NYM	**000**	**200**	**000**	**—**	**2**	**3**	**0**

a-lined out for Young in the 9th. b-hit by pitch for Ewing in the 9th.

LOB: St. Louis 6, New York 5; **2B:** Young (4); **HR:** Velázquez (2), off Peterson. Walker (17), off Peterson. Burleson (10), off Pintaro. Alvarez (5), off Pallante; **RBI:** Walker 4 (52), Winn (25), Velázquez 2 (6), Fermín (11), Burleson (47), Alvarez 2 (12); **SB:** Winn (6), Baty (3).

Runners left in scoring position: St. Louis 4 (Herrera, Burleson, Velázquez 2). New York 3 (Alvarez, Young 2); **RISP:** St. Louis 3 for 9. New York 0 for 6. Runners moved up: Burleson, Ewing.

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pallante	6	3	2	2	2	5	93	3.88
Svanson	2	0	0	0	0	1	13	7.85
Romero	1	0	0	0	0	1	14	3.34
New York	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Warren	1	2	2	2	2	1	33	2.70
Peterson	3⅔	7	6	6	2	1	63	5.75
Pérez	1⅓	1	0	0	0	3	16	5.06
Pintaro	3	1	1	1	0	2	46	1.35

W: Pallante 7-4; **L:** Warren 1-3.

Inherited runners-scored: Pérez 1-0; **HBP:** Pallante (Torrens), Romero (Wagaman); **WP:** Peterson.

ABS Challenge: Velázquez (Strike-Overturned to Ball); **Soto (Strike-Overturned to Ball); Peterson (Ball-Overturned to Strike); Herrera (Strike-Overturned to Ball); Bichette (Strike-Overturned to Ball); Pintaro (Ball-Overturned to Strike). Pitch timer violations:** Peterson (pitcher).

Umpires: HP, Stu Scheuwater. 1B, Scott Barry. 2B, Junior Valentine. 3B, Rob Drake. **T:** 2:33; **A:** 34,238 (42,136).

Late Wednesday: Rockies 3, Cubs 2

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrg cf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.254
Ballesteros c	2	0	0	1	0	1	.238
a-Kelly ph-c	1	0	0	0	1	0	.283
Busch 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.247
Bregman 3b	2	0	0	0	2	0	.246
Happ lf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.230
Suzuki rf	4	0	1	0	0	3	.247
Hoerner 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.247
Conforto dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	.237
Swanson ss	2	0	0	0	1	2	.180
Totals	**31**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**4**	**11**	

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Castro lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.266
Karros 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.229
b-Julien ph-2b	1	1	1	0	0	0	.228
Rumfield 1b	4	1	2	2	0	1	.269
Goodman c	3	0	2	0	1	1	.249
Tovar ss	4	0	2	0	0	2	.215
Carrigg cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.143
Johnston rf	3	1	0	0	1	1	.307
Fulford dh	2	0	0	0	1	2	.200
c-Sullivan ph	1	0	1	0	0	0	.207
Stevens 2b-3b	3	0	0	0	0	3	.038
d-Thompson ph	1	0	1	1	0	0	.239
Totals	**33**	**3**	**9**	**3**	**3**	**11**	

CHC	**000**	**100**	**001**	**—**	**2**	**5**	**0**
COL	**000**	**000**	**021**	**—**	**3**	**9**	**0**

No outs when winning run scored.

a-flied out for Ballesteros in the 6th. b-singled for Karros in the 8th. c-singled for Fulford in the 9th. d-singled for Stevens in the 9th.

LOB: Chicago 6, Colorado 9; **2B:** Hoerner (15); **3B:** Crow-Armstrong (3); **HR:** Happ (15), off Senzatela. Rumfield (8), off Webb; **RBI:** Ballesteros (23), Happ (35), Rumfield 2 (31), Thompson (7).

Runners left in scoring position: Chicago 2 (Crow-Armstrong, Bregman). Colorado 2 (Carrigg, Tovar); **RISP:** Chicago 0 for 4. Colorado 1 for 3.

Runners moved up: Ballesteros; **GIDP:** Hoerner.

DP: Colorado 1 (Tovar, Julien, Rumfield).

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Imanaga	5	2	0	0	2	7	90	4.44
Maton	⅔	2	0	0	0	1	12	6.86
Thielbar	1⅓

SCOREBOARD

NBA

NBA PLAYOFFS

THE FINALS
NEW YORK 3, SAN ANTONIO 1
Game 1: New York 105, San Antonio 95
Game 2: New York 105, San Antonio 104
Game 3: San Antonio 115, New York 111.
Game 4: New York 107, San Antonio 106
Game 5: Saturday at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
Game 6: June 16 at New York, 7:30 p.m.*
Game 7: June 19 at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.*
*best-of-7, *—If necessary*

WEDNESDAY/GAME 4:
Knicks 107, Spurs 106

San Antonio	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	PF	Pts
Champagnie	33:00	2-9	0-0	0-5	3	1	5
Vassell	40:21	6-9	1-1	1-5	4	2	18
Wembanyama	43:55	9-25	4-7	5-13	1	1	24
Castle	25:56	2-7	8-8	2-5	5	5	13
Fox	37:25	6-16	2-2	2-5	7	3	18
Harper	32:16	8-12	2-2	0-4	3	3	21
Johnson	18:02	1-5	0-0	2-4	1	2	2
Bryant	5:00	2-3	0-0	0-1	0	1	5
Kornet	4:05	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	3	0
Totals	**240:00**	**36-86**	**17-20**	**12-42**	**24**	**21**	**106**

Percentages: FG .419, FT .850; **3-Point Goals:** 17-43, .395 (Vassell 5-8, Fox 4-9, Harper 3-6, Wembanyama 2-8, Bryant 1-1, Castle 1-3, Champagnie 1-7, Johnson 0-1); **Team Rebounds:** 8. Team Turnovers: 1; **Blocked Shots:** 4 (Wembanyama 3, Fox); **Turnovers:** 11 (Fox 4, Castle 3, Harper 3, Vassell); **Steals:** 10 (Champagnie 4, Fox 2, Bryant, Johnson, Kornet, Vassell); **Technical Fouls:** None.
Biggest lead: 29. **Points in the paint:** 28. **2nd chance points:** 10. **Fast break points.:** 12.

New York	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	PF	Pts
Anunoby	41:28	10-15	6-6	1-4	1	2	33
Hart	32:48	2-4	1-3	2-8	6	3	6
Towns	25:45	4-5	4-4	2-10	2	4	13
Bridges	28:07	3-9	0-0	0-2	2	0	7
Brunson	44:27	12-25	9-11	0-5	7	1	36
Shamet	20:30	0-3	0-0	0-2	1	1	0
Alvarado	15:38	3-4	0-0	0-2	3	5	8
Robinson	12:59	1-5	0-4	3-5	1	1	2
McBride	7:12	0-4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Clarkson	4:40	1-3	0-0	0-1	0	3	2
Hukporti	3:27	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Sochan	3:00	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals	**240:00**	**36-78**	**20-28**	**8-39**	**23**	**21**	**107**

Percentages: FG .462, FT .714; **3-Point Goals:** 15-32, .469 (Anunoby 7-9, Brunson 3-7, Alvarado 2-3, Towns 1-1, Hart 1-2, Bridges 1-3, Clarkson 0-1, Shamet 0-2, McBride 0-4); **Team Rebounds:** 14. Team Turnovers: 2; **Blocked Shots:** 4 (Robinson 2, Anunoby, Hukporti); **Turnovers:** 13 (Brunson 3, Towns 3, Clarkson 2, Hart 2, Alvarado, Anunoby, Robinson); **Steals:** 6 (Brunson 3, Hart 2, Anunoby); **Technical Fouls:** None.
Biggest lead: 1. **Points in the paint:** 34. **2nd chance points:** 14. **Fast break points:** 13.

San Antonio	**41**	**35**	**14**	**16**	**— 106**
New York	**22**	**27**	**26**	**32**	**— 107**

A: 19,812 (19,812); **T:** 2:51

PLAYOFF POINTS, 2024-PRESENT

through Monday's game; basketball-ref.

Player	PTS	PPG	G	FG%
Jalen Brunson	1409	29.4	48	.455
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	1404	29.3	48	.470
Anthony Edwards	1037	25.3	41	.459
Donovan Mitchell	1030	27.8	37	.456
Karl-Anthony Towns	978	19.2	51	.499

NBA FINALS SERIES STATISTICS

Knicks lead series 2-1.

COMPOSITE SCORING

New York	**88**	**129**	**109**	**102**	**—**	**428**
San Antonio	**135**	**105**	**93**	**87**	**—**	**420**

New York	G	RB	Ast	Stl	Rk	Mn
Jalen Brunson	4	18	20	8	0	38.8
OG Anunoby	4	16	5	4	6	36.8
Karl-Anthony Towns	4	43	11	4	4	33.0
Mikal Bridges	4	16	13	3	1	31.5
Josh Hart	4	38	21	7	2	28.3
Landry Shamet	4	9	5	0	2	26.8
Miles McBride	4	3	6	0	1	13.5
Jose Alvarado	4	12	7	1	0	12.3
Mitchell Robinson	4	18	1	1	3	11.8
Jordan Clarkson	3	5	1	1	0	8.0
Ariel Hukporti	1	0	0	0	1	3.0
Jeremy Sochan	2	0	0	0	0	1.5
Team		**4**	**178**	**90**	**29**	**202**

Knicks	FG	FGA	3P	3PA	FT	FTA	PPG
Brunson	42	106	10	29	24	28	29.5
Anunoby	29	50	15	27	22	24	23.8
Towns	23	42	4	10	13	13	15.8
Bridges	15	33	5	12	3	4	9.5
Shamet	11	32	7	22	0	0	7.3
Hart	9	23	5	14	2	4	6.3
Alvarado	8	19	3	10	2	3	5.3
Robinson	6	12	0	0	4	13	4.0
Clarkson	5	11	2	4	0	0	4.0
McBride	4	20	3	15	0	0	2.8
Hukporti	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Sochan	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.0
Team	**152**	**349**	**54**	**143**	**70**	**89**	**107.0**

San Antonio	G	RB	Ast	Stl	Rk	Mn
Victor Wembanyama	4	42	11	5	13	40.3
Devin Vassell	4	27	12	1	1	38.0
De'Aaron Fox	4	15	25	5	4	36.5
Julian Champagnie	4	20	8	5	2	31.8
Stephon Castle	4	22	17	2	1	31.5
Dylan Harper	4	27	11	2	0	31.0
Keldon Johnson	4	10	3	3	0	14.8
Harrison Barnes	2	2	1	0	0	8.5
Luke Kornet	4	9	2	4	0	7.8
Carter Bryant	4	1	0	1	1	4.3
Team		**4**	**175**	**90**	**28**	**22**

Spurs	FG	FGA	3P	3PA	FT	FTA	PPG
Wembanyama	37	85	8	27	29	37	111
Castle	22	51	6	17	17	20	67
Harper	25	52	5	21	10	11	65
Fox	21	55	6	20	9	10	57
Vassell	17	33	12	25	6	7	52
Champagnie	13	35	11	29	4	6	41
Ke. Johnson	6	18	1	5	2	6	15
Bryant	3	5	2	3	1	2	9
Kornet	0	1	0	0	3	4	3
Barnes	0	2	0	2	0	1	0
Team	**144**	**337**	**51**	**149**	**81**	**104**	**420**

Game 1: Att: 18,835 (18,581); **Time 2:**30
Game 2: Att: 19,014 (18,581); **Time 2:**41
Game 3: Att: 19,812 (19,812); **Time:** 2:46
Game 4: Att: 19,812 (19,812); **Time:** 2:51

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	8	3	.727	—
New York	8	4	.667	½
Toronto	7	5	.583	1½
Indiana	6	5	.545	2
Washington	4	6	.400	3½
Chicago	4	8	.333	4½
Connecticut	2	12	.143	7½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	10	2	.833	—
Las Vegas	8	3	.727	1½
Dallas	7	4	.636	2½
Golden State	7	5	.583	3
Los Angeles	6	6	.500	4
Portland	6	7	.462	4½
Phoenix	4	9	.308	6½
Seattle	3	11	.214	8

Thursday's results
Chicago at Indiana, late
New York at Atlanta, late
Phoenix at Dallas, late
Las Vegas at Portland, late
Saturday's Games
Indiana at Connecticut, 5 p.m.
Minnesota at Las Vegas, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Portland, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Sunday's Games
Atlanta at Toronto, 2 p.m.
Washington at New York, 2 p.m.
Wednesday's results
Toronto 106, Connecticut 102 (OT)
Los Angeles 88, Seattle 83

SEASON LEADERS

through Wednesday; basketball-ref.

Three-pointers	Tm	3P	3PA	3P%
Marine Johannes	NYL	35	83	.422
Marina Mabrey	TOR	34	99	.343
Rhyne Howard	ATL	33	87	.379
Janelle Salaün	GSV	32	80	.400
Natisha Hiedeman	SEA	28	79	.354

NHL

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS

STANLEY CUP FINAL
VEGAS 2, CAROLINA 2
Game 1: Vegas 5, Carolina 4
Game 2: Carolina 4, Vegas 3 (OT)
Game 3: Vegas 5, Carolina 4 (2OT)
Game 4: Carolina 5, Vegas 3
Thursday: Vegas at Carolina, late
Sunday: Carolina at Vegas, 7 p.m.
Wed., June 17: Vegas at Carolina, 7 p.m.*
*best-of-7, *—If necessary*

HART MEMORIAL TROPHY

Awarded to the league's most valuable player in the regular season.

TOP VOTE-GETTERS	Pt	1	2	3	4	5
Nikita Kucherov, TB	1436	72	60	52	12	0
Connor McDavid, Edm	1,426	68	62	56	10	2
Nathan MacKinnon, Col	1,297	50	54	69	17	3
Macklin Celebrini, SJ	625	5	20	18	10	3
Nick Suzuki, Mtl	102	1	0	0	1	9
David Pastrnak, Bos	82	0	0	1	1	4
Zach Werenski, CBJ	53	0	0	0	1	0
Cole Caufield, Mtl	51	0	2	1	6	1

RECENT HART TROPHY WINNERS

Year	Player	Tm	P	G	A	P
2026	Nikita Kucherov	TB	RW	44	86	130
2025	Connor Hellebuyck	Wpg	G	47-12-3, 2.00 gaa		
2024	Nathan MacKinnon	COL	C	51	89	140
2023	Connor McDavid	EDM	C	64	89	153
2022	Auston Matthews	TOR	C	60	46	106
2021	Connor McDavid	EDM	C	33	72	105
2020	Leon Draisaitl	EDM	C	43	67	110
2019	Nikita Kucherov	TBL	RW	41	87	128
2018	Taylor Hall	NJD	LW	39	54	93
2017	Connor McDavid	EDM	C	30	70	100
2016	Patrick Kane	CHI	RW	46	60	106
2015	Carey Price	Mtl	44-16-6; 1.96 gaa			
2014	Sidney Crosby	PIT	C	36	68	104
2013	Alex Ovechkin	WSH	RW	32	24	56
2012	Evgeni Malkin	PIT	C	50	59	109
2011	Corey Perry	ANA	RW	50	48	98
2010	Henrik Sedin	VAN	C	29	83	112
2009	Alex Ovechkin	WSH	LW	56	54	110
2008	Alex Ovechkin	WSH	LW	65	47	112
2007	Sidney Crosby	PIT	C	36	84	120
2006	Joe Thornton	TOT	C	29	96	125
2004	Martin St. Louis	TBL	RW	38	56	94
2003	Peter Forsberg	COL	C	29	77	106
2002	José Théodore	Mtl	30-24-10; 2.11 gaa			
2001	Joe Sakic	COL	C	54	64	118
2000	Chris Pronger	STL	D	14	48	62
1999	Jaromír Jágr	PIT	RW	44	83	127
1998	Dominik Hašek	BUF	33-23-12; 2.09 gaa			
1997	Dominik Hašek	BUF	37-20-10; 2.27 gaa			
1996	Mario Lemieux	PIT	C	69	92	161
1995	Eric Lindros	PHI	C	29	41	70
1994	Sergei Fedorov	DET	C	56	64	120
1993	Mario Lemieux	PIT	C	69	91	160
1992	Mark Messier	NYR	C	35	72	107
1991	Brett Hull	STL	RW	86	45	131
1990	Mark Messier	EDM	C	45	84	129
1989	Wayne Gretzky	LAK	C	54	114	168
1988	Mario Lemieux	PIT	C	70	98	168
1987	Wayne Gretzky	EDM	C	62	121	183
1986	Wayne Gretzky	EDM	C	52	163	215
1985	Wayne Gretzky	EDM	C	73	135	208
1984	Wayne Gretzky	EDM	C	87	118	205
1983	Wayne Gretzky	EDM	C	71	125	196
1982	Wayne Gretzky	EDM	C	92	120	212
1981	Wayne Gretzky	EDM	C	55	109	164
1980	Wayne Gretzky	EDM	C	51	86	137

Tennis

ATP BOSS OPEN

Thursday at Tennis Club Weissenhof; Stuttgart, Germany; outdoors, grass
MEN'S SINGLES, Round of 16
#2 Taylor Fritz d. Martin Landaluce, 6-7 (4), 7-5, 7-6 (3).
#4 Jiri Lehecka d. James Duckworth, 6-7 (8), 6-4, 7-6 (3).
#6 Frances Tiafoe d. Rinky Hijikata, 6-4, 6-4.
Sho Shimabukuro d. Nick Kyrgios, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4.

ATP/WTA LIBEMA OPEN

Thursday at Autotron Convention Center; Den Bosch, Netherlands; outdoors, grass
MEN'S SINGLES, Round of 16
#1 Felix Auger-Aliassime d. Marton Fucsovics, 6-3, 6-4.
Adrian Mannarino d. #4 Arthur Rinderknech, 7-6 (5), 3-6, 6-3.
Benjamin Bonzi d. #5 Ugo Humbert, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.
Zhang Zhizhen d. #6 Tallon Griekspoor, 7-6 (5), 6-4.
Kamil Majchrzak d. James McCabe, 6-0, 6-3.
WOMEN'S SINGLES, Round of 16
Elena-Gabriela Ruse d. #3 Elise Mertens, 6-3, 6-3.
Zeynep Sonmez d. #5 Anastasia Potapova, 6-1, 2-0, retired.
#8 Barbora Krejcikova d. Hanne Vandewinkel, 6-1, 6-4.
Robin Montgomery d. Greet Minnen, 6-4, 7-6 (4).
Daria Snigur d. Panna Udvardy, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.
Magda Linette d. Mia Pohankova, 6-2, 6-2.

WTA ILKLEY OPEN

Friday at Ilkley Tennis Courts, Ilkley, United kingdom; outdoors, grass
WOMEN'S SINGLES, Round of 16
#1 Viktorija Golubic vs. Katie Swan
#2 Lanlana Tararudee vs. Harmony Tan
#3 Sinja Kraus vs. Tatiana Prozorova
#4 Darja Vidmanova vs. Lucrezia Stefanini
#5 Lulu Sun vs. Mary Stoiana
Elizabeth Mandlik vs. #6 Dalma Galfi
#8 Ashlyn Krueger vs. Alicia Dudeney
Akasha Urhobo vs. Celine Naef

EUGENIO FONTANA

Thursday at Club La Meridiana; Modena, Italy; outdoors, Red clay
WOMEN'S SINGLES, Round of 16
#1 Victoria Jimenez Kasintseva d. Varvara Lepchenko, 6-2, 6-2.
Leyre Romero Gormaz d. #6 Mayar Sherif, 6-4, 6-2.
Nuria Brancaccio d. #7 Tamara Zidansek, 6-2, 6-2.
Lucia Bronzetti d. #4 Julia Grabher, 7-6(6), 7-6(4).

QUEEN'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Thursday at The Queen's Club; London, Great Britain; outdoors, grass
WOMEN'S DOUBLES, Quarterfinals
Laura Siegemund/Leylah Annie Fernandez d. Serena Williams/ Victoria Mboko, walkover
WOMEN'S SINGLES, Round of 16
#1 Elena Rybakina vs. Tatjana Maria
#7 Sorana Cirstea vs. Emma Raducanu
Marie Bouzkova vs. Donna Vekic
Katie Boulter vs. Jaqueline Cristian
Kamilla Rakhimova vs. Harriet Dart

Odds

MLB

Favorite	Line	Underdog
Friday		
American League		
Texas	-126/+108	at Boston
Detroit	Off/Off	at Cleveland
at Toronto	Off/Off	NY Yankees
Houston	-118/+100	at Kansas City
Tampa Bay	-172/+144	at LA Angels
National League		
at Pittsburgh	-148/+126	Miami
at NY Mets	Off/Off	Atlanta
Arizona	-112/-104	at Cincinnati
at Milwaukee	-235/+194	Philadelphia
at San Fran.	Off/Off	Chic. Cubs
Interleague		
Seattle	-146/+124	at Washington
at Baltimore	Off/Off	San Diego
at Chicago WS	Off/Off	LA Dodgers
at Minnesota	-138/+118	St. Louis
at Athletics	-178/+150	Colorado

NBA Finals

Favorite	Line (O/U)	Underdog
Saturday		
at San Antonio	5 (216½)	New York

Soccer

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026

GROUP A	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
Mexico	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Korea Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Czechia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Africa	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

GROUP B	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bosnia&Herzegovina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qatar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP C	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morocco	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haiti	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP D	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
United States	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paraguay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP E	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curacao	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ivory Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ecuador	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP F	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tunisia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP G	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IR Iran	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Zealand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP H	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cape Verde	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP I	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senegal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iraq 0	0	0	0	0	0		
Norway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP J	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
Argentina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Algeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Austria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jordan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP K	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congo DR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uzbekistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colombia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GROUP L	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
England	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ghana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
A: Mexico 2, South Africa 0
A: South Korea vs. Czechia, late

FRIDAY'S MATCHES
B: Canada vs. Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2 p.m. at Toronto (BMO Field)
D: U.S. vs. Paraguay, 8 p.m. at Inglewood, Calif. (SoFi Stadium)

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
B: Qatar v Switzerland, 2 p.m. at Santa Clara, Calif. (Levi's Stadium)
C: Brazil v Morocco, 5 p.m. at East Rutherford, N.J.
C: Haiti vs. Scotland, 8 p.m. at Foxborough, Mass. (Gillette Stadium)
D: Australia v Türkiye, 9 p.m. at BC Place, Vancouver, B.C.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
E: Germany vs. Curaçao, noon at Houston (NRG Stadium)
F: Netherlands vs. Japan, 3 p.m. at Arlington, Tex. (AT&T Stadium)
E: Ivory Coast vs. Ecuador, 6 p.m. at Philadelphia (Lincoln Financial)
F: Sweden vs. Tunisia, 9 p.m. at Guadalupe, Mexico (Estadio BBVA)

MONDAY'S MATCHES
H: Spain vs. Cabo Verde, noon at Atlanta (Mercedes-Benz Stadium)
G: Belgium vs. Egypt, 2 p.m. at Seattle (Lumen Field)
H; Saudi Arabia vs. Uruguay, 5 p.m. at Miami Gardens, Fla. (Hard Rock)
G: IR Iran vs. New Zealand, 8 p.m. in Inglewood, Calif. (SoFi Stadium)

TUESDAY, JUNE 16
I: France vs. Senegal, 2 p.m. at E. Rutherford, N.J. (MetLife Stadium)
I: Iraq vs. Norway, 5 p.m. at Foxborough, Mass (Gillette Stadium)
J: Argentina vs. Algeria, 8 p.m. at Kansas City (GEHA Field)
J: Austria vs. Jordan, 10:59 p.m. at Santa Clara, Calif. (Levi's Stadium)

MLS

Eastern	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	10	1	3	33	31	11
Miami	9	2	4	31	39	28
Chicago	8	4	2	26	27	16
N. England	8	5	1	25	22	18
NY Red Bulls	6	5	4	22	25	32
Charlotte	6	6	3	21	24	23
Cincinnati	5	5	5	20	36	37
NYCFC	5	6	4	19	25	21
D.C. United	4	5	6	18	21	25
Columbus	4	7	4	16	21	23
Montréal	4	8	2	14	22	31
Orlando	4	9	2	14	23	44
Toronto	3	6	5	14	22	29
Atlanta	3	9	2	11	14	23
Philadelphia	1	10	4	7	18	30
Western	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Vancouver	10	2	2	32	34	12
San Jose	10	3	2	32	34	15
Salt Lake	8	4	2	26	26	19
Dallas	7	4	4	25	30	22
LA	7	5	3	24	24	17
Seattle	7	3	3	24	17	11
Houston	7	6	1	22	19	23
Minnesota	6	5	4	22	18	22
LA Galaxy	5	5	5	20	22	22
San Diego	4	6	5	17	30	27
Colorado	5	9	1	16	25	24
St Louis City	4	6	4	16	16	20
Portland	4	8	2	14	22	28
Austin	3	7	5	14	19	31
Kansas City	3	9	2	11	14	36

Three points for victory, one point for tie.
Thursday, July 16
Toronto FC at CF Montréal, 6:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Chicago, 7:30 p.m.
Sporting KC at St Louis City, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at Seattle, 9:30 p.m.

NWSL

Club	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego	8	4	1	25	19	13
Utah	7	2	3	24	18	10
Portland	7	3	3	24	20	14
Washington	6	2	3	21	18	9
Gotham	6	2	3	21	12	5
Kansas City	7	5	0	21	18	17
N. Carolina	5	3	3	18	17	13
Orlando	5	5	2	17	18	17
Denver	4	4	3	15	17	13
Seattle	4	5	2	14	10	13
Houston	4	6	2	14	14	19
Angel City	4	6	1	13	16	14
Bay	3	6	2	11	9	17
Boston	2	7	3	9	11	19
Chicago	3	9	0	9	5	24
Louisville	2	8	1	7	15	20

Three points for victory, one point for tie.
Friday, July 3
Houston at Washington, 7 p.m.
Kansas City at Denver FC, 8:30 p.m.
Orlando at Angel City, 9 p.m.

U.S. MEN'S SCHEDULE

2026 record: 1-3-0; w-World Cup
Sat., March 28: Belgium 5, U.S. 2
Tue., March 31: Portugal 2, U.S. 0
Sunday, May 31: U.S. 3,. Senegal 2
Sat., June 6: Germany 2, U.S. 1
w-Friday: vs. Paraguay, 8 p.m.
w-Friday, June 19: vs. Australia, 2 p.m.
w-Thu., June 25: vs. Turkiye, 9 p.m.
w-FIFA World Cup

Football

UNITED FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PLAYOFFS
Saturday's final
UNITED BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP
#4 DC (6-5) vs. #3 Louisville (7-4), 3 p.m. at Audi Field, Washington, D.C.
TEAM MATCHUPSs

Offense	Pt	Rush	Pass	TotYal
DC	28.1	151.4	172.8	324.2
Louisville	26.5	102.9	190.7	293.6
Defense	**Pt**	**Rush**	**Pass**	**TotYal**
Louisville	21.9	115.3	198.5	313.8
DC	22.4	97.8	185.0	282.8

Golf

LPGA DOW CHAMPIONSHIP

1st of 4 rounds at Midland CC: Midland, Mich.; 6,301 yards; Par: 70
First Round

H.Naveed/G.Kaur	33-34—67 -3
M.Zhang/C.Boyd	34-33—67 -3
N.Broch Estrup/G.Dryburgh	35-32—67 -3
A.Furue/Y.Nishimura	34-34—68 -2
A.Iwai/C.Iwai	35-33—68 -2
A.Kim/I.Yoon	31-37—68 -2
A.Lee/L.Vu	33-35—68 -2
C.Borge/P.Mack	35-33—68 -2
G.Kim/Y.Wilson	34-34—68 -2
L.Duncan/L.Maguire	35-33—68 -2
L.Grant/M.Stark	33-35—68 -2
M.Katsu/H.Shibuno	35-33—68 -2
H.Kim/H.Choi	36-33—69 -1
J.Inkster/A.Yin	35-34—69 -1
Y.Liu/M.Liu	36-33—69 -1
A.Pano/B.Chacon	33-37—70 E
B.Moresco/C.Melgrati	34-36—70 E
C.Herbin/L.Walsh	34-36—70 E
CT Mulet/CL-Chacarra Coto	36-34—70 E
D.Holmqvist/M.Sagstrom	33-37—70 E
J.Porvasnik/K.Smith-Stroh	34-36—70 E
N.An/S.Joo	36-34—70 E
N.Korda/O.Cowan	35-35—70 E
N.Nadaud/H.Briem	35-35—70 E
P.Phatlum/A.Yubol	36-34—70 E
S.Lee/J.Im	35-35—70 E
A.Doherty/M.Young	36-35—71 +1
J.Ewart Shadoff/A.Belac	36-35—71 +1
J.Ko/N.Hataoka	35-36—71 +1
M.Rhodes/J.Lopez Ramirez	35-36—71 +1
P.Chien/S.Vinijchaitham	33-38—71 +1
R.Choi/J.Bae

Bulls play-by-play announcer Adam Amin, left, and color analyst Stacey King greet each other before a game against the Magic at the United Center on April 10. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

KING

from Page C1

King didn't mind spending an extra minute or two on any interaction. When it came to Bulls fans, his patience and eagerness were rooted in a simple belief: It wasn't his time — it was theirs. He was just there to share it.

■■■

It wasn't hard for King to make a first impression on Horace Grant, the power forward whose spot King was hoping to contend for even as a rookie.

Before he met King, Grant thought he knew what to expect. Grant's twin brother, Harvey, played alongside King at Oklahoma. Those were the strongest years of King's playing career, a four-year span during which he dominated the Big Eight while leading the Sooners to the program's first NCAA championship game.

And King was never soft-spoken. CHSN analyst and longtime Tribune reporter K.C. Johnson remembers his first impression of the rookie when King first arrived in Chicago as the No. 6 pick in the 1989 draft. Colorful. Confident. Borderline cocky.

But it was one thing to know of King and another to meet him in person. After their first workout together at the Deerfield Multiplex, Grant said he had to give himself a pep talk: Horace, you've met the guy. He's coming after your job. You've got to put the work in.

That dynamic defined their years as teammates. King was a hard worker. He didn't shy away from the fact he was fighting to usurp Grant from his starting position. The two clashed fiercely in practice.

But off the court, the now-familiar version of King emerged. He was quick with an invitation to grab a meal after practice, always wanting his teammates to stick together rather than drift apart in their downtime.

"Those type of people don't come very often," Grant told the Tribune. "That's rare."

It's hard to remember now, but King wasn't always a favorite among Bulls fans. Chicago sports historian Jack Silverstein noted in a column this week that King actually received a chorus of boos when he was announced at the Grant Park rally celebrating the 1991 championship, a slight that the big man absorbed with his trademark grin and a simple response: "Let's go out there and have a party tonight."

He might have appeared unfazed from the outside, but King was desperate to improve his standing after that season, both on the Bulls roster and in Chicago. He changed his jersey from No. 34 to No. 21. He spent the summer in the gym. Grant remembered feeling nervous when the team reconvened for training camp, noting the clear edge to King's approach on the court.

Grant credits King for pushing his own game — "iron sharpens iron" — to a new level. And the Bulls needed King's help to overcome a 15-point deficit in the fourth quarter of Game 6 in the 1992 NBA Finals, knocking down a late jumper against the Portland Trail Blazers that stood out as one of the most memorable highlights of his career.

"Stacey played his role and he played it well," Grant said. "If it wasn't for Stacey and the rest of the (bench) crew in '92, I don't think we win that series."

The 1992-93 season redefined pressure for the Bulls. Fresh off back-to-back titles, they hoped to elevate themselves from a powerhouse to a genuine dynasty. Every mistake earned extra scrutiny. Every loss carried extra weight.

In January 1993, the Bulls dropped consecutive games in a home-and-away back-to-back. Their record was 22-9 — but that didn't matter. The team boarded the bus in Cleveland after a 117-95 blowout by the Cavaliers in dead silence, an icy pall setting in among teammates desperate not to let losing become comfortable.

King was the last player to clamber up the steps, pausing at the head of the vehicle before fixing his eyes on Bill Cartwright. A smile followed. Then King opened his mouth and a perfect impression of the revered veteran tumbled out.

Grant can't remember the particulars of the joke. Probably, he said, something about Cartwright's haircut. But what he does remember is the laughter that followed, buoyant and resounding. Even Cartwright cracked a smile.

The mood shifted. Relief seeped in. The Bulls headed back to Chicago, where they trounced the Milwaukee Bucks two nights later and continued down the grueling gauntlet toward their third ring.

"He had that gift," Grant said. "When people are down, he knows how to push their buttons and make them laugh."

■■■

After he was traded to the Minnesota Timberwolves in 1994, King spent more than a decade working away from Chicago as a player and coach.

But even before he came back for good to begin his broadcasting career, King never really left. He raised his family here. And for close to three decades, he continued to choose Chicago, over and over again.

Bulls fan Joe Sislow recalls that King was a regular at Record City in Northbrook during his playing career. He earned the nickname "Pooh-Man" when Noreen Sobczyk, a longtime coworker at the shop, saw him checking out "Funky as I Wanna Be" in the hip-hop section.

Years later, Sislow noticed King as he was driving through a parking lot and shouted the nickname through his rolled-down window. King doubled over in laughter, turning in immediate recognition of a years-old inside joke.

This became the common refrain of King's relationship with the Bulls fanbase. No interaction went unnoticed, no conversation was forgotten. King wanted to talk to anyone, anywhere, at any time.

His sons recalled this week, in a statement via the Bulls, how their father often would be stopped at the grocery store or on the street with the same question: "Are you a professional athlete?"

King loved to reply with the same wisecrack: "No, I'm just a tall Black guy." The laughter that followed was inevitable. From the start, it was never hard to understand how he won the city over.

"It was very easy for him to exist in Chicago," Brady said. "This is a city that it's hard to be a person from outside. If you break through, it's because Chicago has decided they're going to accept you — and he was accepted because he also decided he wanted to be part of Chicago."

■■■

After two years of working his way into local broadcast rosters, King became the lead color analyst for the Bulls in 2008. Two weeks later, the Bulls won the NBA draft lottery, a miraculous stroke of luck that allowed them to select hometown hero Derrick Rose.

Neither man knew it at the time, but they would come to shape each other's lives.

"Red Kerr was to (Michael Jordan) what Stacey was to Derrick," CHSN analyst Johnson said. "They were intertwined."

It made sense, then, that King and Rose reached the stratosphere in the same moment on Jan. 22, 2010.

At this point, there's no need to describe the dunk to a Chicagoan. It's embedded in the lore of the city — the breakout pass, the bounding leap, the midair double clutch, the ferocious snarl.

That's only half of the dunk, though. The other half is King's reaction, memorized by fans who grew up in the hopefulness of the Rose years. Shouting at Rose to stop it. Asking broadcast partner Neil Funk to look around for his poster machine. Reminding anyone who would listen that this kid was from Chicago.

In an interview with The Score this week, Funk said that call was the moment he realized he was "no longer driving the car" on their broadcasts. King had the pedal glued to the floor, hurtling the tandem forward with one simple request: "I want to go higher!"

King wanted Rose to take himself and Chicago all the way to the top, back to the upper echelon of the NBA. And in his own way, King took Rose higher, providing the score for every climactic moment of the 2011 MVP's Bulls career.

"You didn't just call plays, you helped tell my story from the pain of the struggle to the height of the glory," Rose reflected in a poem shared with the Tribune after King's death. "So if my name still echoes, if my Rose still grows, a piece of that garden is yours I hope you know."

Over time, a local broadcast team transcends the typical expectations for the medium. A familiarity develops. Fans don't need their local color commentators to be objective or analytical. They need them to love their team. They need them to refuse to give up on their team. And King understood this dynamic better than most.

He knew that when he spoke into a microphone, he was speaking directly to a Bulls fan. For at least 82 nights of any given year, he knocked on the front door and settled onto the sofa of thousands of homes in Chicago and beyond. His commentary was a conversation, an ongoing dialogue with fans of a team that he loved like a family.

King bickered with fans on social media. He responded to nearly every direct message. Brady, the CHSN producer, joked that King's autograph is probably worthless in Chicago simply due to the sheer volume of pictures and memorabilia he signed over the years.

When fans reached out on social media about hoping to meet him in person, King always responded with the same phrase: "Catch me after the game."

"It was just as much fun for him as it was for the fan," Brady said. "He was old school. He knew why he was popular. He got that the reason he was there was because of them and he appreciated them on that level.

"Just imagine if you had a chance to tell everyone in your life that you appreciate them, if you had an opportunity to thank them and shake their hands. Well, that was his thing."

Humor was the foundation of King's broadcasting talent. His one-liners formed a shared language among Bulls fans: "Gimme the hot sauce." "Let me step back and kiss myself." "Big-time players make big-time plays." "There's five Javontes out there." "Does anyone know how to post videos to Facebook?"

A crucial piece of this approach was King's knack for toeing a line of ridiculousness. He hit a faulty falsetto while singing advertising jingles. He dipped into a spot-on impression of Doc Rivers in the middle of a live take. He gleefully poked fun at himself.

"In my opinion, Stacey was a professional comedian who just happened to be doing color," Brady said.

When he spotted a fan wearing an odd Michael Jordan jersey — the debate over whether it was vintage or fake never was officially settled — during a 2021 broadcast, King couldn't hold back. He launched into a teasing tone, ribbing a stranger as if he were a cousin who showed up to a family function in a goofy outfit.

"Buy one, get two free!" King exclaimed, barely able to get the words out through laughter. "It looks like he might've made that at home."

King's greatest talent as an orator was improvisation. He didn't cook up lines in advance. He never brought in notes for new nicknames or catchphrases. When Johnson moved to an on-air role with NBC Sports Chicago in 2019, King offered a singular piece of advice: "It's not rocket science. Be authentic. Be true to yourself."

Johnson and Brady felt King's comedic timing and quick wit often overshadowed the genuine depth of his basketball knowledge. King was known for not sleeping much. After a Bulls game, he often headed home to catch the West Coast games, then flipped over to recordings to see what else he missed around the league. King didn't flex his X's and O's analysis too often — that wasn't the nature of his role — but behind the scenes he could break down the game with rare experience.

A voracious curiosity bled into every aspect of King's persona on the mic. He devoured movies and television shows. He coined nicknames based on rappers mostly popular with teenagers. He quoted "Sanford and Son" despite the reference being a decade or two older than the knowledge of the average viewer. He whooped and hollered through Bears playoff games in the middle of live Bulls broadcasts. He refused to let his commentary feel restricted to the confines of a 48-minute basketball game.

"He was on the same level of everyone — players and fans alike — to the point where he never felt like he was above anyone," Brady told the Tribune. "And who doesn't like a guy who's the life of the party?"

■■■

Although King reached rare air with the Bulls during Rose's ascent, most of his tenure as a broadcaster was spent breathing life into ragged seasons. The Bulls reached the playoffs only twice in his last decade with the team. Still, King never wavered.

Contrary to popular belief, optimism isn't easy. It takes skill. It takes work. It's hard to love a team that loses. There's a reason so many people stop. King dedicated himself to the effort of belief. He chose each day to trust that the Bulls had something better coming in the future. He truly thought the 14th man on the roster could really be something if he just got a little more playing time.

It didn't matter if the Bulls were on a 10-game losing streak or sitting at the bottom of the Eastern Conference. It didn't matter if the basketball wasn't elite. King believed *the Bulls* were elite — as a franchise, as a community — and that in itself was worth celebrating.

Last summer, Ayo Dosunmu and Matas Buzelis called up King during a lengthy livestream at Dosunmu's home. The pair burst into laughter as King, booming over the speakerphone, voiced his eagerness to see the young core deliver success — "I'm tired of this play-in stuff!" — and urged Buzelis to stay in the gym. He signed off with an earnest message to fans: "Stay loyal to the Bulls. Don't jump off ship."

The jokes and goofy monikers mattered. But it was this — the joyful relentlessness of his belief — that truly endeared King to fans of the Bulls and the NBA at large.

"It's one of the few times in life where you actually understand you are living in the good old times," Brady said. "And you knew it. Everybody knew it. If the Bulls played well, that was awesome. But you were always tuning in for something very special. We know it will never be the same."

When the Bulls return to the court this fall, they will be accompanied by a newfound quiet. There is no replacement for King's voice, his laugh, his warmth. Chicago understands this too well. King's absence will serve as a reminder of what he offered this city during his many years here.

How to sing with abandon, how to laugh too hard to speak. How to find light in a joyless season. How to live a life that is celebrated with equal weight by your closest colleagues and strangers you've never met. King accomplished each of these feats, on and off the mic. And because of him, Chicago understands how to live a little better too.

Drive home safely. Beep beep.

Singer Corinne Bailey Rae performs at Athenaeum Center for Thought & Culture Theater on June 10. **JOSH BOLAND/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

REVIEW CORINNE BAILEY RAE AT THE ATHENAEUM

Weaving together 20 years of beautiful music

Britt Julious

If you know, you know, and those who know Corinne Bailey Rae's music know she is more than just her hit singles.

Yes, she performed her timeless classic "Put Your Records On" during her lovely two-hour set at the Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture, but she is more than that as a musician, and this 20th anniversary show was a testament to the enduring strength of her songwriting and lyricism.

"I'm so happy to share with you 20 years of my career, 20 years since my very first songs," Rae told the audience. The evening was dedicated to her self-titled solo debut, and Rae's musicianship was evident in full force as she moved between instruments (from the acoustic guitar to the tambourine to the sweet chime of two bells) and let certain tracks linger longer in the room. Rae opened the show clad in a sophisticated navy blue jumpsuit and a hyper-sequined and sheer shawl, singing a snippet of "Seasons Change" before transitioning into a lovely rendition of "Breathless." From the very first moments on the stage, the audience was enraptured by her performance.

While the crowd largely stayed seated — at least until near the end — there were multiple occasions where folks couldn't help themselves but to stand up and sing, not just along with the music, but seemingly to Rae herself. During "Call Me When You Get This," for example, a group of 30-something women to the right of me stood up in glee as Rae sang the track's chorus. The women stretched out their arms as if to clasp Rae within them. It was a sweet and genuine moment.

Rather than stick to the structure of her record, Rae and her band mixed it up, providing a balance of the downtempo (like on "Trouble Sleeping") and the upbeat (as heard during their performance of "I'd Like To"). Interspersed were quiet reflections about the people and places that made these songs come

See **JULIOUS** on Page D4

REVIEW 'DISCLOSURE DAY' ★★★½

Spielberg's brilliantly executed flick builds to unsatisfying end

Colman Domingo, from left, Tommy Martinez, Emily Blunt and Josh O'Connor star in Steven Spielberg's "Disclosure Day." **UNIVERSAL PICTURES AND AMBLIN ENTERTAINMENT**

By Katie Walsh
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Perhaps Emily Blunt is a supreme being (if you've seen her in "The Devil Wears Prada" movies, you might agree). This is the supposition that Steven Spielberg brings to the table in "Disclosure Day," a film about extraterrestrials that would make Fox Mulder jump for joy — or at least feel really vindicated. The truth is out there, Spielberg asserts, and maybe it doesn't have to be so scary.

Getting there might be, though. Spielberg wrote the story while screenwriter David Koepp crafts a 1970s-style paranoid thriller about what some people will do to conceal evidence of extraterrestrial life, and what others will do to reveal the truth about whether we're really alone. Spielberg plunks us right into the action with all the grace of a boot to the face.

But there's no better guide through a cinematic whirlpool. He and cinematographer Janusz Kaminski are at the height of their filmmaking powers in "Disclosure Day," with breathtaking camera movements that relentlessly push, pull, spin, float and twist our perspective upside down, and yet the objective always remains clear. We drop in with our hero, a cybersecurity expert and whistleblower, Daniel Kellner (Josh O'Connor), as he's attempting to evade a team of elite thugs from his former employer, Wardex, while spiriting away a backpack full of incriminating video evidence going back 79 years — as well as a powerful alien tool.

Yes, "Disclosure Day" is "thingamajig cinema" of the highest order — you know, when a movie is about different people trying to get one thingamajig (virus, bomb, list, etc.)? It's that.

See **'DAY'** on Page D3

Glenn Close, seen May 1, is an eight-time Oscar nominee. **RICHARD SHOTWELL/INVISION**

CELEBRITIES

Academy to give star honorary Oscar

FROM NEWS SERVICES

Glenn Close will finally get her hands on an Oscar. Long considered among the best actors to never win one, the eight-time nominee will receieve an honorary Academy Award along with director Ridley Scott and animator Floyd Norman at the Governors Awards on Nov. 15, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Wednesday.

"Throughout her extraordinary body of work, Glenn Close's unparalleled emotional range has brought to life some of the most complex characters in cinema," the academy said in a statement. "Floyd Norman is the legendary animator who has broken barriers and inspired generations of artists over his remarkable career. Sir Ridley Scott is a true visionary whose decades-long legacy has left an immeasurable impact on global cinema and culture."

Nominations for Close date to 1983, when she received her first nomination for "The World According to Garp." She was also nominated for her turn as a rabbit-slaying stalker in 1987's "Fatal Attraction" and most recently for 2020's "Hillbilly Elegy."

Her eight nominations tie her with Peter O'Toole for the most for an actor without a win. She has won many other awards, including three Emmys, three Tonys, three Grammys and three Golden Globes.

Scott, the director of "Alien," "Blade Runner" and "Gladiator" whose epic decades of work have blended popular success and prestige like few others, has also never won despite four nominations, including best director nods for "Thelma & Louise" and "Black Hawk Down."

Norman's career began in 1956 when he became the first Black animator for Walt Disney Animation Studios, contributing to "Sleeping Beauty," "Mary Poppins," "The Jungle Book" and Robin Hood." He also worked on "Toy Story 2" and "Monsters, Inc."

Olivier honored in London: The late Laurence Olivier, arguably Britain's greatest ever stage actor, was honored Wednesday with a blue plaque attached to the central London property where he lived as a child.

Unveiled by Ian McKellen, the plaque at 22 Lupus Street in Pimlico marks the place where Olivier began acting as a child.

"For those of us who were lucky enough to have seen him in the theater, it's of course quite right that, because he was the leader of our profession for so many years, it's appropriate that this should be put up," McKellen said. "Actors go out of fashion very quickly, but I've a feeling that this man's name will never be forgotten, and perhaps because of this plaque."

Olivier lived at Lupus Street between the ages of 6 and 11. While there, he reportedly transformed a wooden box and blue curtains into a stage where he sang, danced and acted for hours at a time.

Olivier, who died in 1989, was venerated as a Shakespearean actor, playing many iconic protagonists. For his role as Hamlet, Olivier won his only Oscar for best actor in 1949. Other film credits include in "Rebecca," "Wuthering Heights," "Marathon Man" and "Sleuth."

June 12 birthdays: Actor Roger Aaron Brown is 77. Actor Sonia Manzano is 76. Singer Junior Brown is 74. Singer Meredith Brooks is 68. Actor Paul Schulze is 64. Actor Finesse Mitchell is 54. Actor Jason Mewes is 52. Actor Timothy Simons is 48. Singer Robyn is 47. Singer John Gourley is 45. Actor Dave Franco is 41. Singer Chris Young is 41.

Friend doubts relationship after seeing extremist groups followed

R. Eric Thomas
ASKING ERIC

Dear Eric: A close friend of 50 years has always gone out of her way, both in word and deed, to agree with my political views.

She has participated enthusiastically in many advocacy events I have promoted. She has even gone so far as to express that her husband feels differently and that his views upset her so much, she might even leave him.

I was thus shocked to see on Instagram that, while she has never made a post, she follows some 1,200 or so people/groups, a small minority of which are friends and the remainder of which are all extremist groups on the other end of the political spectrum from the views she pretends to espouse.

She certainly has a right to her beliefs, but I feel betrayed that she has gone out of her way to act as if she completely agrees with me.

I no longer feel comfortable sharing with her details about some of my family/friends as I know that the groups she supports would not approve of their lifestyle.

I now wonder if anything she says is true. I can't help but feel like our friendship is beyond repair.

Do I tell her that I know the truth and confront her, asking her why she has lied all this time? Or ignore it and focus on our shared history and apparently superficial friendship but avoid politics and all controversial topics?
— Shocked Friend

Dear Friend: It's important to remember that social media doesn't have a direct relationship to reality.

Now, following 1,200 political accounts isn't something one does by accident. But it's possible there's more to the story.

When we see things online that don't match up with what we know to be true about friends and family, particularly now that the influence of AI is growing so rapidly, it's always good practice to check in with the human behind the account.

Before you walk away from the friendship, ask her some questions about what you observed. These don't have to be (or come across as) accusations.

You might say something like, "I noticed you follow a large number of extremist groups, and it really surprised me based on our history and what you've said before. Can you help me understand?"

The answer may be as simple as her wanting to "keep tabs" on what others are saying or doing. Or, as you suspect, she may have been talking out of both sides of her mouth.

But following doesn't implicitly mean support (even though social media engagement such as follows and likes are how accounts gain traction and, sometimes, earn money).

Approach her with curiosity and let her response guide your next steps.

Dear Eric: About once a week or so, my wife has a small group of close friends over to the house for lunch.

As she is now dependent upon a walker due to a recent surgery and age-related issues, one of the ladies has insisted on washing and drying the dishes after their meal.

While this would be a great thing under normal circumstances, the woman has not only broken two nice glasses, but she does a terrible job of washing everything. She has included leaving food particles attached to the silverware and lipstick on coffee cups.

As a result, I have to sort through the drawers and cupboards to find and rewash whatever she has put away.

Although my wife has politely told the woman that she is a guest and her company is appreciated at the table with her other friends, the woman makes like a tornado at the sink and can't be stopped.

Although I never join the ladies for their afternoon lunch, I did make a point of politely repeating my wife's request, which was completely ignored.

Thus, do you have any suggestions on how to stop this well-meaning friend of my wife's from washing the dishes after their lunch?
— Flummoxed

Dear Flummoxed: While your wife's friend may be trying to do a favor, it's of little help if it just creates more work. You'll have to be a little more intransigent about the issue.

Try talking to her privately. Thank her for her efforts and tell her, "I really am going to have to insist that you let me take care of the washing up. It's important to me, and it's important to my wife. If you'd like to help in another way, we're open to it, but we will be happiest and most comfortable if you just enjoy your time as a guest."

Another, potentially more effective, remedy: you can make sure that you're at home during the lunches, even if you don't join them.

Before the dishwashing tornado starts, clear the dishes, start the wash your way and shoo anyone else out of the kitchen.

Send questions to eric@askingeric.com.

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WHAT TO DO IN CHICAGO

Red Bull on a bike and a new pinball museum

By Jennifer Day
FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Our picks for events in and around Chicago this weekend.

The Flip: Chicago holds a special place in pinball history, and now you can see just how fun that legacy is at The Flip. Part nonprofit museum, part arcade, The Flip opens this weekend with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 4 p.m. June 12. Learn about the art and tech that shape pinball games and see bagatelle tables from the 1800s. Even better, try your hand at 30 restored machines, dating as far back as 1932. Following 4 p.m. grand opening on June 12, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sundays at The Flip in Block 37, 108 N. State St.; details on this weekend's free events at theflip.museum

Participants compete during Red Bull Stalen Ros coming to Chicago as Red Bull Spin Off in The Hague, Netherlands, on Sept. 6, 2025. **MARCEL VAN HOORN**

Red Bull Spin Off Chicago: Sure, you can ride in a bike race. But can you build a tandem bike, ride it over the waves of Lake Michigan, and still cross a finish line? It's too late to enter the contest, but you can still watch the fun unfold this weekend on 12th Street Beach as 40 teams attempt a silly feat inspired by a Dutch tradition. Be sure to vote for the People's Choice Award for best build. 10 a.m. June 13 at 12th Street Beach, 1200 S. Linn White Drive; details at redbull.com

Nate Bargatze: See him on the big screen or see him live in Rosemont. After a stop last fall, comedian Nate Bargatze is back with his "Big Dumb Eyes" tour again — this time at Allstate Arena. His new movie, "The Breadwinner," is also playing in area theaters. 7 p.m. June 13 at Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont; tickets from $40.15 at rosemont.com

Lupe Fiasco: Chicago's own Lupe Fiasco is touring to mark the 20th anniversary of "Food & Liquor," his debut album featuring "Kick, Push" and his Grammy-winner, "Daydreamin.'" Back when the album came out, the Tribune said Lupe's "high, airy voice strings together multisyllable words with the flippant dexterity of a precocious younger brother." Now that he's 44, see if that still holds true. 7 p.m. June 12 at the Salt Shed (indoors), 1357 N. Elston Ave.; tickets from $58.25 at saltshedchicago.com

The Hold Steady: By the time The Hold Steady gets to the Salt Shed Fairgrounds this weekend, they'll have already played a sold-out "Storytellers" set at Thalia Hall and another sold-out show at The Empty Bottle. The cult favorite is also celebrating a 20th anniversary — their third album, "Boys and Girls in America" — with a show featuring Built to Spill and Titus Andronicus.4 p.m. June 13 at Salt Shed Fairgrounds, 1357 N. Elston Ave.; tickets from $79.50 at saltshedchicago.com

"Stand By Me: The Film and Its Stars 40 Years Later": Corey Feldman, Jerry O'Connell, and Wil Wheaton will discuss what it was like to star in a classic 1986 coming-of-age film, "Stand By Me." Go to see the film on the big screen, stick around for the conversation. It's already a poignant story — the film is based on a terrific Stephen King novella — but even more so given the shocking deaths of director Rob Reiner last year and co-star River Phoenix in 1993. 7 p.m. June 14 at the Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St.; tickets from $66.65 at msg.com

Midsommarfest: Andersonville celebrates its 60th anniversary Midsommarfest this weekend. It still features a traditional maypole raising at 11 a.m. on June 13, but Andersonville has evolved from its Swedish roots. So, too, has Midsommarfest. Expect four stages of entertainment, vendors, food, and plenty of family-friendly activities. It's a quintessential summer street fair, set along one of the most shoppable corridors in the city. 5-10 p.m. June 12 and Noon-10 p.m. June 13-14 on Clark Street between Foster Avenue and Gregory Street; $10 suggested gate donation (other donation packages available); details at andersonville.org

Old Town Art Fair: Glimpse more than 60 gardens — many of them private — and browse the works of more than 200 artists at this weekend's Old Town Art Fair. The fair also hosts two stages featuring jazz, swing, folk, fusion, and blues. Kids' activities and, of course, food and drink will be on offer. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. June 13 and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. June 14 centered around Old Town Triangle Center, 1763 N. North Park Ave.; $13 donation (children free); details at oldtownartfair.org

Wells Street Art Festival: If one Old Town street festival just isn't enough, head over to the Wells Street Art Festival. It's hosting 127 artists this weekend, along with three stages of entertainment, street art workshops, family activities, and even more food and drink. Noon-10 p.m. June 13 and Noon-8 p.m. June 14 around 1560 N. Wells St.; details at wellsstreetartfest.us

Gamer's Universe: The Chicago Teen Gamer's Guild stages its annual convention, designed to include kids of all ages. Sure, it's all fun and games, but there's some serious creativity on display here. Expect tournaments, an artist alley and exhibitor hall, and (of course) lots of opportunities to play video and tabletop games. Bonus: It winds up just in time to catch some pinball at The Flip. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. June 13 at Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St.; register for the free event at cvent.com

Have something to do around Chicago? Email events to day.chitribevents@gmail.com.

REVIEW 'THE FURIOUS' ★★★

Fists fly in superb martial arts showdown fueled by vengeance

By Katie Walsh
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Xie Miao plays a father searching for his daughter Rainy, played by Yang Enyou, above, in "The Furious." **LIONSGATE**

The hero of "The Furious" — let's call him "Dad" — is a man of few words.

Played by the iconic Chinese action actor Xie Miao, he does most of his talking with his fists and his feet, while also employing a few occasional phrases in sign language and hastily scrawled notes. But there's no mistaking the urgency of his situation: his daughter Rainy (Yang Enyou) has been kidnapped, and he's going to plow through every person who stands in the way of her rescue.

This story is the scaffolding upon which "The Furious," the latest and greatest Hong Kong-style martial arts movie, is hung. Like the last great action flick of this kind, "The Raid," we don't need much in the way of plot, just a man with a blind drive to do something that seems impossible, and the skills and willingness to make that happen. What matters here is the violence, a ballet of blood and bodies that happily topples over right into the territory of operatic absurdity. This movie is built to deliver hard-hitting action, and boy does it ever.

"The Furious" is a truly international affair, with Japanese director Kenji Tanigaki teaming up with Japanese fight choreographer Kensuke Sonomura for this revival of the Hong Kong-style actioner. The stars hail from China, Indonesia, Thailand and the United States, the cinematographer is from Hong Kong, the editor American, the locations Thai. The setting is the generic "somewhere in Southeast Asia," but these details don't always matter when the fists fly so furiously.

The story follows a female investigative journalist (JeeJa Yanin) who tracks down missing children in this unnamed city, uncovering a child trafficking ring, and ending up on the wrong side of the brutally lethal enforcers and businessmen behind the operation. Her husband (Joe Taslim) tracks her down, ultimately colliding, and teaming up, with our desperate father, Wang Wei (Xie), looking for his own kidnapped daughter.

The cultural specificities are muddled at best, and catered toward an English-speaking audience, with characters largely speaking English. So it's a good thing our protagonist is a taciturn fellow, or speaks visually, with his hands and writing. He's mute but not deaf, and his daughter speaks to him in Chinese. But this is not a movie that we come to for authentic representation. This is a movie in which our hero breaks the head off a sledgehammer using another man's head, and then (spoiler alert), that man later gets up.

This is the kind of martial arts movie where the ante is so upped in every fight sequence, one can't possibly imagine how any of these scenes could end, especially with such a literal murderers' row of global martial arts masters — who is going to tap out? In addition to Xie (a wushu champion and child action star), we've got Indonesian judo superstar Taslim ("Mortal Kombat"), Brian Le ("Everything Everywhere All at Once"), Joey Iwanaga ("Baby Assassins: 2 Babies") and Yayan Ruhian, the Indonesian pencak silat master, star of "The Raid" and a guy whose distinctive appearance always elicits a mixture of excitement and dread anytime he shows up onscreen.

"The Furious" doesn't pull any punches, kicks, machetes or even guns, pushing the envelope in terms of the violence, even involving children — though Rainy gets her whacks in, too. One moment elicited the loudest collective gasp I may have ever heard in a theater. There are also times where you're laughing at how outrageously over the top it gets, but it never loses its moral center or the relationships that drive the action.

If you love "The Raid" or movies starring Tony Jaa and Don Lee, it's basically a legal obligation to see "The Furious." Trust me, it won't let you down.

(In English, Chinese and sign language, with English subtitles)
MPA rating: R (for strong bloody violence and language)

'DAY'

from Page D1

Spielberg and Koepp aren't trying to shy away from or reinvent genre tropes here. Koepp's screenplay is sturdy but in some places thin, but Spielberg gives us the old razzle-dazzle to cover that up.

Spielberg is having a blast with this energetic yarn. Things do get pretty woo-woo and out there, so genre and familiar storytelling beats provide a grounding element and link to cinema history.

With his cast, Spielberg has assembled an ensemble of heavy hitters who are simply the right people for the job. O'Connor is already so affable and lovable, we're immediately on his side, as is Eve Hewson, who plays his loyal but vulnerable girlfriend Jane, a former novitiate who grapples with her faith. Hot on Daniel's heels is the team from Wardex, led by scheming CEO Noah Scanlon (Colin Firth). Also trying to retrieve Daniel is Hugo Wakefield (Colman Domingo), a rogue Wardex director leading the mission to disclose the extraterrestrial information.

Then there's Blunt, who has no equal when it comes to embodying barely managed chaos with varying shades of mania. She turns in an otherworldly performance as Margaret, a perky weather girl in Kansas City, who suddenly starts speaking in unfamiliar languages (Russian and Korean), and then transmits an entirely inhuman set of clicks and growls while live on the air. She rapidly develops intense psychic powers that direct her to Daniel, otherwise a stranger to her.

Any further details should remain undisclosed, but the film is totally Spielbergian, as an action-packed and deeply humanist genre film. In "Disclosure Day," nostalgia is a portal, the eyes are the window to the soul, and seeing is believing. Spielberg and Koepp argue that there's nothing more powerful than visual evidence, but also that truly seeing others is the only way to forge empathy, a highly evolved trait.

The climax is unfortunately anti-climatic, as the film builds to a whirling crescendo of stratospheric concepts and rattling energy that Spielberg chooses not to satisfyingly pay off.

Spielberg and Koepp dive into the spiritual and the existential with this political alien flick, and while the destination isn't as exciting, the journey itself is deeply moving and brilliantly executed.

MPA rating: PG-13 (for action/violence, some bloody images and strong language)
Running time: 2:25
How to watch: In theaters

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Lynzo The Heartthrob from left, Carrie D., DJ Gaybash! and Loqum of Sugarwater. **TERJUAN JOHNSON**

Festival will have house, techno, juke and footwork — just in time for Juneteenth weekend

Britt Julious

IF YOU GO
Sugarwater runs June 18-20, opening at 9 p.m. at Podlasie Club, 2918 N. Central Park Ave.; tickets $5.50 (Thursday), $11.50 (Friday), $17.25 (Saturday), $33.35 for a 3-day pass, ra.co/events/2450539

Carrie D. loves obligations. As an academic, a nightclub manager and the founder of the event series Club Hospitality, Carrie loves nothing more than being in service to her people. That's why she felt called to create Sugarwater, a new three-day festival arriving just in time for Juneteenth weekend.

Sugarwater focuses on celebrating Black culture at the intersection of house, techno, juke and footwork, styles of electronic music rooted deeply in Chicago and the Midwest.

"I'm at this critical broker point," Carrie said. "I have access to all these resources now, these places, these spaces, these people, these sound systems, the controllers, whatever it may be. It feels like it would be a disservice not to mobilize them in grand ways, especially for Black and brown people."

But Carrie's journey to this moment was years in the making. Originally from Jackson, Mississippi, the cultural architect moved to Chicago to attend graduate school and receive a degree in computational sociology. Early in her schooling, she got a side job as a bouncer, which eventually grew into managing two venues. Along the way, she also founded Club Hospitality, her own party series, currently touring eight cities around the country.

"I've only yet (begun) to acknowledge the fact that I'm doing something creative, following a creative endeavor. I grew up very poor, very hood, very much in the struggle, so the position I found myself in is literally insane, to be honest with you. But now we're here," said Carrie.

After Carrie began managing Podlasie Club this winter, she noticed the first real dates available for booking on the calendar fell in June.

"I was like, OK, well, this is a sign from God himself," Carrie recalled. "It's time to make a spectacle."

Creating a series of events around Juneteenth was a no-brainer, yet the choice to focus on the liberatory holiday was more than a symbolic date for Carrie.

"We need more time to sit in these feelings, the celebration, the memorial, all of it, the good and the bad. We deserve it," Carrie said.

That is why Sugarwater will move beyond the standard single-night event structure and instead function as a multi-day festival.

"I wanted the impression of something that really seemed to have come together into something bigger than any of us," Carrie offered. "It's not just one event, it's not just one day, it's not just one group or one artist. It's a conglomeration of everybody and everything, and it's indicative of our capacity to come together and do something like this."

Inspired by New York City's Dweller festival (which celebrates Black electronic artists), Carrie wanted to activate Chicago fans as well. The city is known as the birthplace of house music, but it is often left out of conversations regarding flashier contemporary electronic dance music scenes. Sugarwater, then, may serve as a homecoming — a chance for folks both within and outside of the city to celebrate Black electronic music's foundations, its current-day significance and the Black American liberation from slavery.

Building Sugarwater also reflects Carrie's broader ethos, one that rejects a scarcity mindset and instead embraces collaboration and connectivity. Rather than considering Sugarwater in competition with other Juneteenth events, Carrie wants others to think of it as providing people options and perhaps catering to diverse crowds that are within — and also celebrate and are allies to — the Black American electronic community.

"Now that I'm in that room, and I've got my foot in this door and that door, I'm about to let everybody in," said Carrie. "And that's really what I wanted."

The three-night celebration begins the day before Juneteenth at Podlasie Club on Thursday, June 18, presented with the party Adult Supervision. The evening will feature performances by juke legend DJ Thadz, DJ Heather and Floor Supervisor. The party continues on June 19, with a Club Hospitality and Heartwrench presented evening at Podlasie hosted by Lynzo the Heartthrob and featuring ASL Princess, Byrell the Great and Cobra B. An after-hours party created in collaboration with Spiral Productions, Da Function and Black Skrippa Brigade will also take place at a secret location. The event will close out back at Podlasie Club on Saturday, June 20 for The Grapevine, including sets by Archangel (Bodyhack), Daniro and Syd Falls.

According to Carrie, all of the booked artists align with the vibe and spirit of the celebration.

"I'm not just booking people and being like, 'Oh, you're a good DJ,'" Carrie offered. "I'm booking people and thinking, 'Oh, you're a good DJ, and you've got a good heart. You've got good grit. You've got some cool.'"

And in the end, that speaks to the larger, deeper meaning of Sugarwater. The dance floor can be a space of fun and escape, but also a space for genuine safety and liberation for Black, queer, transgender and marginalized people, in particular. Sugarwater and the curated, intentionally cultivated dance floors Carrie D. produces for Club Hospitality offer a source of healing, joy, kindness and care.

"Nobody's looking at you, nobody's judging how you dance, how you dress, what's between your legs, how you present yourself, who you are," Carrie said. And given that we're amongst like minds, I really do think a party has the power to change people's lives."

Britt Julious is a freelance critic.

JULIOUS

from Page D1

to life, from brief, summertime barbecues in the north of England to lonely nights at the kitchen table with the one you love.

I especially loved the way in which she leaned into the roots of her musicality. Those only familiar with Rae's pop hits may not understand the breadth of her artistry. This is an artist who delights in genres from the soulful R&B of "Till It Happens to You" to the downright bluesy timbre of "Breathless." The latter in particular had room to breathe during Wednesday night's set, as Rae's uber-talented band members glided into extended solos with ease. On stage, she happily cheered them on. As an audience member, I was thrilled to trace the connective tissue of her songs and hear how these foundational genres became the architecture of a record that is still so beloved to this day.

Before a surprisingly robust encore featuring her Grammy-winning cover of Bob Marley and the Wailers' "Is This Love" (slowed down to Rae's signature jazz- and R&B-tinged rhythm), she ended her set with the earnest debut stunner "Like a Star." It was a quieter and surprising choice, but one that speaks to Rae's keen understanding of her audience, both who they are and what they love.

Corinne Bailey Rae performs at Athenaeum Center. **JOSH BOLAND/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

It was a thoughtful comedown from the rapture and joy of "Put Your Records On," which Rae and her band performed right before the encore. Audience members, many more this time, stood up and danced in the aisles while singing along to the powerful, motivating tune, while Rae, like a ray of sunshine, shared affirmations with the room at large. "Hope you get your dreams," she said again and again while traversing the stage, and that was something we could all take to heart.

Britt Julious is a freelance critic.

What to watch

FRIDAY

June 12, 2026

All times Central. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

2026 FIFA World Cup

FOX, beginning at 1:45 p.m. Live

World Cup host nations are in action today with Canada vs. Bosnia-Herzegovina in Toronto for a Group B match this afternoon and USA vs. Paraguay in a Group D match tonight in Los Angeles.

Power Book III: Raising Kanan

Starz, 7 p.m. ■ Season Premiere

In the fifth and final season of the *Power* spinoff, Kanan Stark's (Mekai Curtis) true ruthlessness takes shape. Kanan solidifies his place in the Queens drug business alongside Southside legend Breeze (Shameik Moore), and their alliance sets the stage for a reckoning that will ripple through every player in this dangerous game.

The Listeners

Starz, 8 p.m. ■ New Series

In this five-part drama series, Claire Kutty (Rebecca Hall), a popular English teacher, suddenly begins to hear a low, persistent hum that no one else around her can hear. The hum triggers migraines, nosebleeds and insomnia, with no obvious source or medical explanation. After weeks of suffering, her relationships with family, friends and colleagues begin to fracture. When she discovers that a student of hers can also hear the hum, the two strike up an unlikely and intimate friendship that gradually transforms into something more extreme, with devastating consequences. Also starring Ollie West, Prasanna Puwanarajah, Mia Tharia, Gayle Rankin and Amr Waked.

'The Listeners'

ELEMENT PICTURES PRODUCTIONS

Zillow Gone Wild

HGTV, 8:30 p.m.

Jack McBrayer hits the road to see which home is "Worth the Wild" in this new episode. He begins his search at a Bavarian-themed lodge, explores a two-tower maze house filled with art and sculptures, then tours a home converted from a 19th century church.

CATCH A CLASSIC

Special Theme: Summer of Darkness

TCM, beginning at 7 p.m.

Where there is heat, darkness lurks, and TCM showcases just that in its selection of films tonight beginning with **Scarlet Street** (1945), a drama about a devious woman (Joan Bennett) who becomes acquainted with a man she thinks is a rich and successful painter (Edward G. Robinson), so she and her crook of a boyfriend take him for everything he's worth. Following is 1946's **The Killers (pictured),** which is sure to keep you guessing until the end about who really was behind the killing of a small-town gas-station attendant (Burt Lancaster). The film also stars Ava Gardner. The night ends with **Nightmare Alley** (1947), where a man (Tyrone Power) joins a traveling carnival with the goal of learning the mind-reading powers of Mademoiselle Zeena (Joan Blondell) to make his own profit.

EVERETT COLLECTION

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE

'The Heat'

GEMMA LA MANA

Sing (2016, Children) Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon **NICK, 6 p.m.**

The Heat (2013, Comedy) Sandra Bullock, Melissa McCarthy **Encore, 6 p.m.**

Dirty Dancing (1987, Romance) Jennifer Grey, Patrick Swayze **Sundance, 6:30 p.m.**

Deadly Destination Wedding (2026, Suspense) Anna Marie Dobbins, Austin Valli **LMN, 7 p.m.**

Knives Out (2019, Mystery) Daniel Craig, Chris Evans **AMC, 7 p.m.**

The More the Merrier (2025, Romance) Rachel Boston, Brendan Penny **Hallmark, 7 p.m.**

Daniela Forever (2024, Science fiction) Henry Golding, Beatrice Grannò **SHO, 8 p.m.**

Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986, Comedy) Matthew Broderick, Alan Ruck **E!, 8:30 p.m.**

The Super Mario Bros. Movie (2023, Family) Chris Pratt, Anya Taylor-Joy **Bravo, 9 p.m.**

The Day After Tomorrow (2004, Action) Dennis Quaid, Jake Gyllenhaal **SYFY, 9:30 p.m.**

Scream (1996, Horror) Neve Campbell, David Arquette **SHO, 10 p.m.**

From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com

Rhys Ifans and Anna Maxwell Martin star in the sci-fi drama "Star City." **APPLE TV**

TV REVIEW

Creators pivot to Soviet space program in impressive spinoff

By Aramide Tinubu
VARIETY

In 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first man to land on the moon. In Apple TV's alternative-history sci-fi drama "For All Mankind," which premiered in 2019, creators Ronald D. Moore, Matt Wolpert and Ben Nedivi illustrate what might have happened if the Soviet Union had actually beaten the United States to the moon.

The long-running series, which will air its sixth and final season in 2027, imagines a very different America than the one we know. Now, in their spinoff "Star City," those creators go behind the Iron Curtain to explore their alternate universe from the perspective of the Soviet space program. Impeccably acted (despite the wonky accents) and rife with intrigue, "Star City" is dark, compelling and completely impressive. It works beautifully as a stand-alone without any prior knowledge of "For All Mankind."

Sergei Korolev, the godfather of the Soviet space program, died in 1966, and as a result, the Soviet moon project collapsed. In "Star City," Korolev lives on as the Chief Designer (Rhys Ifans). However, this story does not launch by centering on him. Instead, it begins with two women. It's 1969, and a frightened woman is startled awake by banging on her apartment door. After telling her young child to go back to sleep, she gets dressed and is ushered into a car. As she is led down a dimly lit corridor, she starts pleading with the soldiers escorting her, assuring them her husband, Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov (Sam Wilkinson), is loyal to his country. Just as her panic starts to consume her, she finds herself in a control room where the Chief Designer is waiting. He points to a screen where the woman watches in awe as Alexei steps onto the moon, becoming the first man ever to do so.

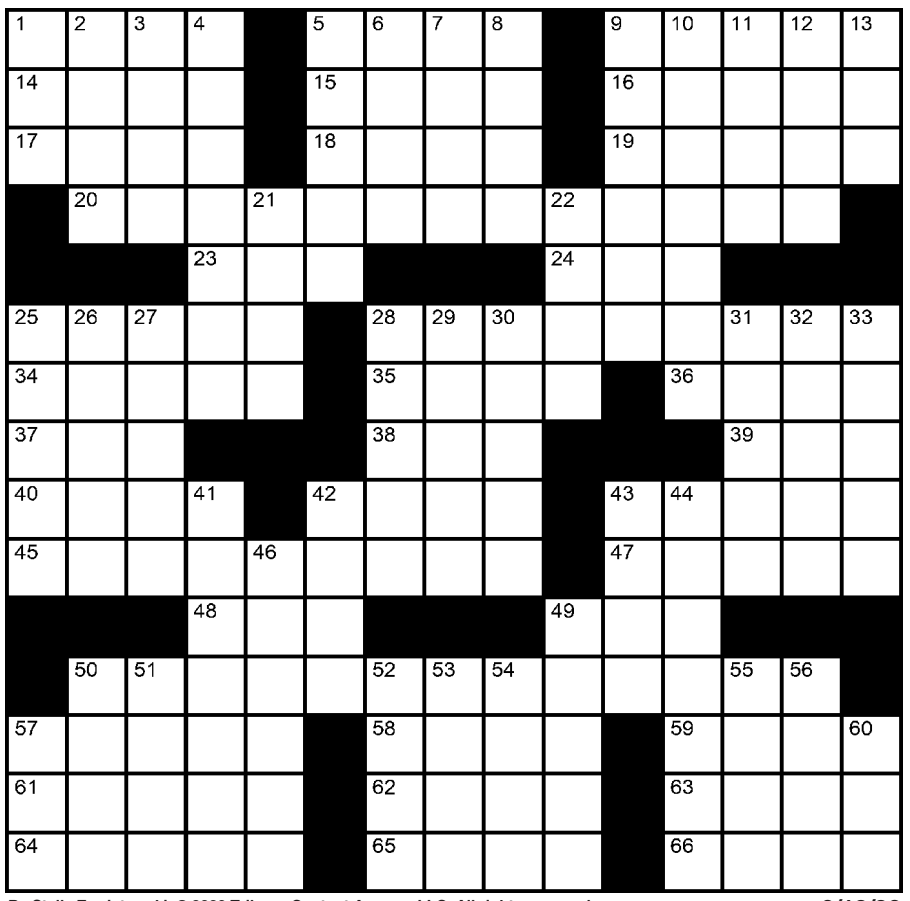
Sometime later, Irina Morozova (Agnes O'Casey) walks briskly across Star City to get to her job. After being checked by security and moving through endless hallways, she rushes to her desk. Irina is the newest member of the surveillance department in Star City, helmed by the malevolent Lyudmilla Raskova (Anna Maxwell Martin), the head of the KGB surveillance. Having recently moved from Moscow with her young daughter Zoya (Eadie Johnson), Irina has been tasked with surveilling the home of cosmonaut Valya Mironov (Adam Nagaitis) and his wife, Tanya (Ruby Ashbourne Serkis), a former professional pianist who feels the walls of Star City closing in. Listening in on the couple's conversations isn't exactly an enticing job for the ambitious woman, but she does begin to feel a connection with Tanya, whom she comes to know through her spying. Inventive engineer Sergei Nikulov (Josef Davies) also feels constrained by his role, but a dangerous new venture gives him something to look forward to.

While talk of space, science and ships surrounds the narrative, "Star City" is riveting because of its characters. For fear of sabotage, death or something worse, no one in Star City can reveal who they truly are. Instead, the audience is offered glimmers of the truth, which act as puzzle pieces throughout the eight-episode first season. Cloaked in a gloomy gray, "Star City" creators unveil not simply a stifling world, but one on the verge of consuming itself and its genius with tyranny and ghastly rigidity.

A heavy, thought-provoking drama that pulls viewers deeper into the plot as it moves forward, "Star City" may be revisionist history, but it's also a reminder of the most beautiful and horrific aspects of humanity. This is a story about risks, chance and every sacrifice made to achieve immortality.

How to watch: Apple TV

Crossword

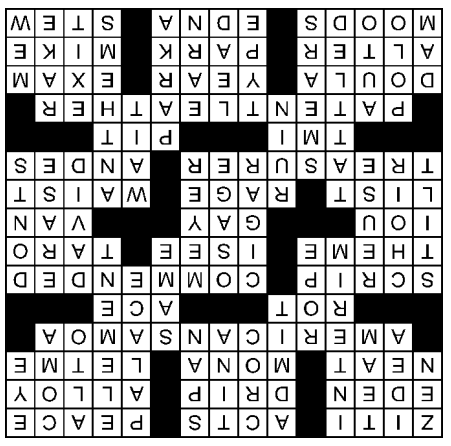


By Stella Zawistowski. © 2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved. 6/12/26

ACROSS
1 Tubular pasta
5 Performs on stage
9 State of harmony
14 Garden of __
15 Faucet problem
16 Mixture of metals
17 Free from disorder
18 __ Lisa
19 "I can help!": 2 wds.
20 South Pacific U.S. territory: 2 wds.
23 Go bad
24 Star pitcher
25 Temporary currency
28 Praised
34 Topic of discourse
35 "Gotcha": 2 wds.
36 Starchy Asian plant
37 Debtor's letters: Abbr.
38 The "G" in LGBTQ
39 Ford Transit, e.g.
40 Shopper's reminder
42 Get angry
43 Where to wear a belt
45 Club's money officer
47 South American range
48 "Didn't need to know": Abbr.
49 Peach seed
50 Shiny shoe material: 2 wds.
57 Childbirth pro
58 12-month period
59 Medical checkup
61 Change
62 Pull into a spot
63 Trout of baseball
64 Emotional states
65 __ St. Vincent Millay
66 Hearty winter dish

DOWN
1 Buddhist school
2 Mental image
3 Sports squad
4 Meantime
5 Allow to enter
6 Plastic shoe
7 Fey of "Mean Girls"
8 Nine-inch measure
9 Monarch's residence
10 Periodic-table listing
11 Singing voice
12 State of unconsciousness
13 Look over
21 Thick cord
22 Identical
25 Pole used for elevation
26 Singers in church
27 Reduce, __, recycle
28 Smokable roll
29 "August: __ County"
30 "Twilight" author Stephenie
31 Goliath's killer
32 Remove data from
33 No-nos
41 Was a snitch
42 Totally destroy
43 Bide your time
44 National songs
46 Oily stains
49 Winter jacket
50 Collared, knit shirt
51 Car or truck
52 Sort
53 Starring role
54 Get by working
55 Way out
56 Tool with teeth
57 Grand Coulee __
60 Kitten's sound

Solutions



Horoscopes

If June 12 is your birthday: Use the month of June to strategize your life. Your thinking could be especially on point, communications too. After some real challenges in the earlier part of the year, you could be headed toward smoother sailing.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Tomorrow June stars begin their climb out of the swamp, gradually heading up, up, up, bring lots of opportunity. Much better odds for outcomes begin tomorrow, save anything important for above-zero days.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Today you could feel restless, antsy, or uncomfortable for a few hours, then it should pass. It's in the stars, not because of your people or situations.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): A low-level disturbance in your energy field could keep you feeling out of sorts for part of today without really understanding what's driving the experience.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): A friend could get triggered and become temperamental for a few hours, stay neutral and just watch the vibe ramp up, then fairly quickly dissolve.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): People in the workplace could seem more uneven, testy, ragged, and less balanced for part of today. Old routines could bump up against new productivity quotas, or the equivalent.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Influencers could seem more emotional and less centered today. Someone could be intentionally driving your anger and outrage.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Today of all days is NOT the day to discuss money with anyone. Reactivity will likely be king and there's no queen. Let emotions quiet before you resume.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A close relationship could be more unbalanced than usual, what you experience today should be far from the norm. If things are volatile normally, today's the kind of day for extra caution.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Things should have calmed somewhat, depending on when you're reading this. For a few hours almost everything could seem like a test of intelligence, dexterity or patience.

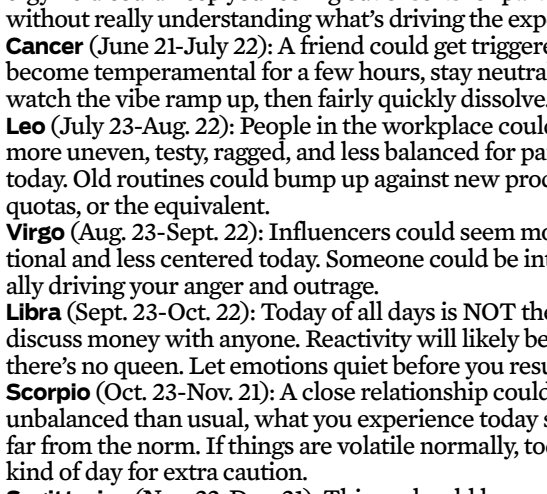
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): New methodologies or new tech could make daily tasks easier or more flowing, continue to hone your routines for ease and efficiency. Creative expression could pack a huge emotional punch today.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Perhaps the phase has already passed, but last night or today could bring or could have brought somewhat disruptive energies into your home space.

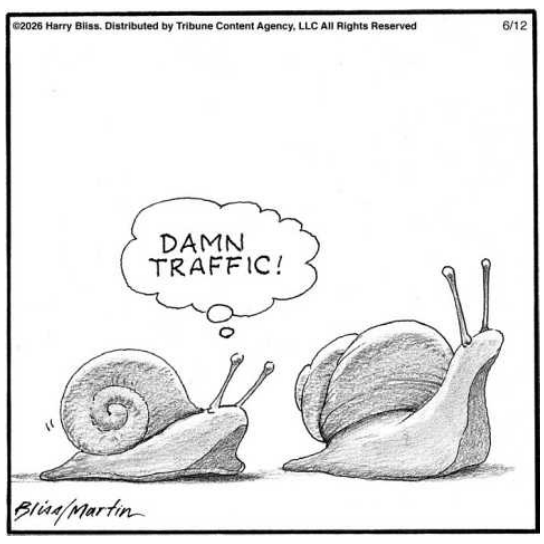
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): If emotions are running high, that's the worst time to appear credible. Add to that today's underwater stars and you could get seriously disappointed.

— Magi Helena, Tribune Content Agency

The Argyle Sweater By Scott Hilburn


YES, MY THEORY IS THAT THERE 'S AN EVIL TWIN. PROBABLY SEPARATED AT BIRTH, AND NOW HE'S KIDNAPPED THE GOOD TWIN AND HAS TAKEN OVER HIS LIFE AND FAMILY.
WHAT?
DIDN'T YOU ASK ME TO POSIT WHILE YOU WENT TO THE BATHROOM?
©2026 Scott Hilburn/Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Bliss By Harry Bliss



Bridge

Neither vulnerable, South deals

North
♠ K 4
♥ A Q 10 7 5
♦ J 5 4 2
♣ 8 4

West
♠ 9 8 3
♥ 4 2
♦ K 10 8 7
♣ Q J 10 3

East
♠ 10 7 5 2
♥ J 8 6 3
♦ 6
♣ 9 6 5 2

South
♠ A Q J 6
♥ K 9
♦ A Q 9 3
♣ A K 7

Today's deal is the kind that perplexes players in a pairs game, scored at matchpoints. Many would go down in six notrump trying for an overtrick. They would win the opening club lead, cross to dummy with the king of spades, and lead a diamond to the queen. Should that win, they would have 13 tricks if the jack of hearts fell in one, two, or three rounds. If the jack did not fall, they would still expect one more trick from the diamond suit, possibly even two more. They would not be happy with their result on this lie of the cards.

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	6NT	All pass

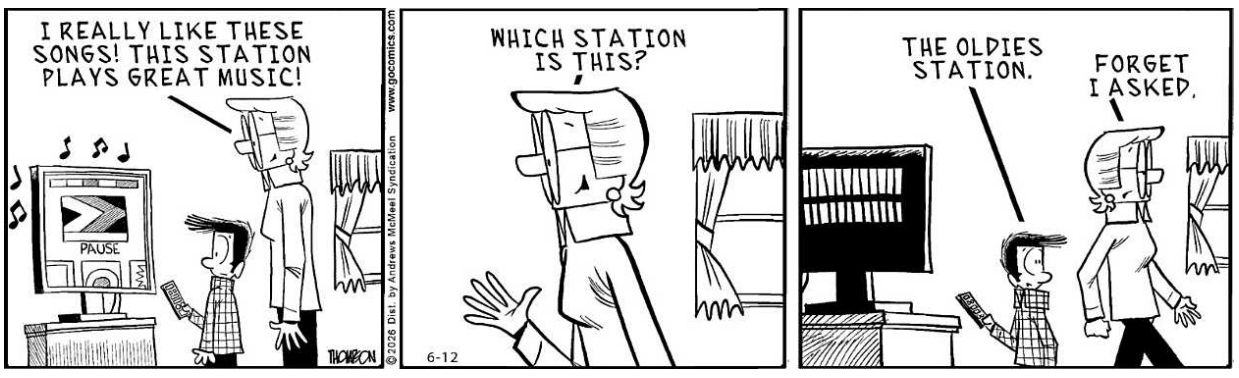
Opening lead: Queen of ♣

A declarer in a team game, or rubber bridge, where overtricks are not very important, would consider this a boring deal. They would win the club lead, cash the ace of diamonds, and lead another diamond. Should West rise with his king they would have 12 tricks. If West plays low, the jack wins in dummy, and declarer would see East show out. South would then switch to hearts. He would cash the king and run the nine, assuring four heart tricks on any lie of the suit. Should East, instead of West, have four diamonds to the king-10, declarer would later lead a diamond to his nine to make 12 tricks. Matchpoints can be a tough game.

— Bob Jones
Tribune Content Agency

Want more COMICS? Go to chicagotribune.com/comics

Grand Avenue By Mike Thompson



Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?
OH, BOY...
ZOE AND HAMMIE FOUGHT ALL AFTERNOON, WREN HAS A NEW RASH, THE TOILET OVERFLOWED, I FORGOT TO BUY MILK, I GOT ABOUT A THOUSAND SPAM CALLS AND I'VE GAINED TWO POUNDS.
YOU NEVER JUST SAY "FINE."
IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE THE ANSWER, DON'T ASK THE QUESTION.

Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman

PRACTICING?
ACTUALLY, I'M WRITING A SONG FOR MOM'S BIRTHDAY.
WOW. SHE'LL LOVE THAT!
YEAH. AND IT'S BEEN PRETTY EASY.
YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW MANY THINGS RHYME WITH "NAG."

Mr. Boffo By Joe Martin

YOU'RE NOT LISTENING! THIS IS IMPORTANT... YOU HAVEN'T HEARD A WORD I'VE SAID
JOE MARTIN 6-12-26
THEY CALL IT A DELUXE SPORTS PACKAGE, BUT IS IT REALLY A "DELUXE SPORTS PACKAGE?"

Frazz By Jef Mallett

ANY PLANS FOR THE WEEKEND?
WELL, I'M SUPPOSED TO FINISH THIS BOOK AND WRITE A REPORT.
OH. THAT'S HARD.
EH. IT'S SUPPOSED TO RAIN.
AH. THAT'S EASY.
BUT SUPPOSE I LOCATE AN UMBRELLA.

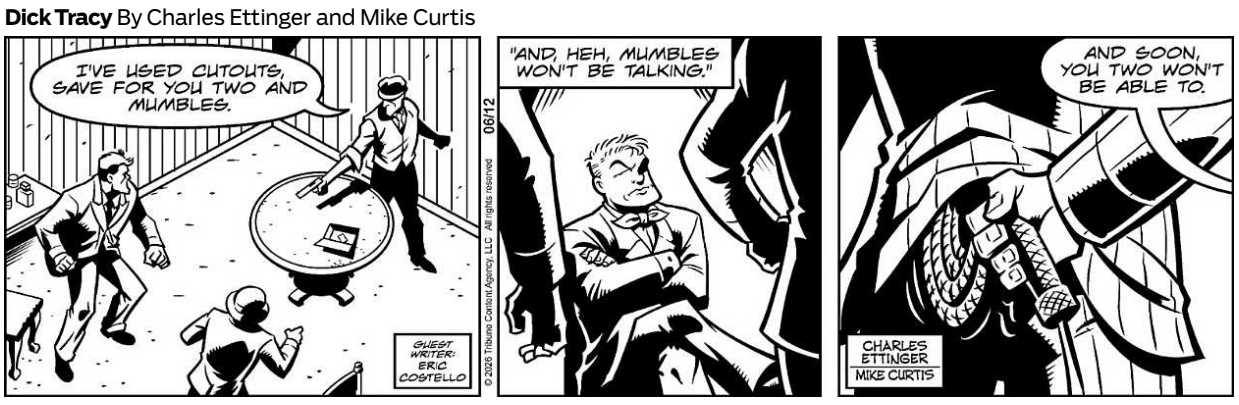
Classic Peanuts By Charles Schulz

HERE COMES WOODSTOCK BACK FROM THE FARMER'S MARKET
WELL, HOW DID IT GO?
YOU SOLD YOUR RADISH? WOW! THAT'S GREAT!
NOW YOU CAN BUY SOME MORE SEED AND RAISE ANOTHER RADISH!

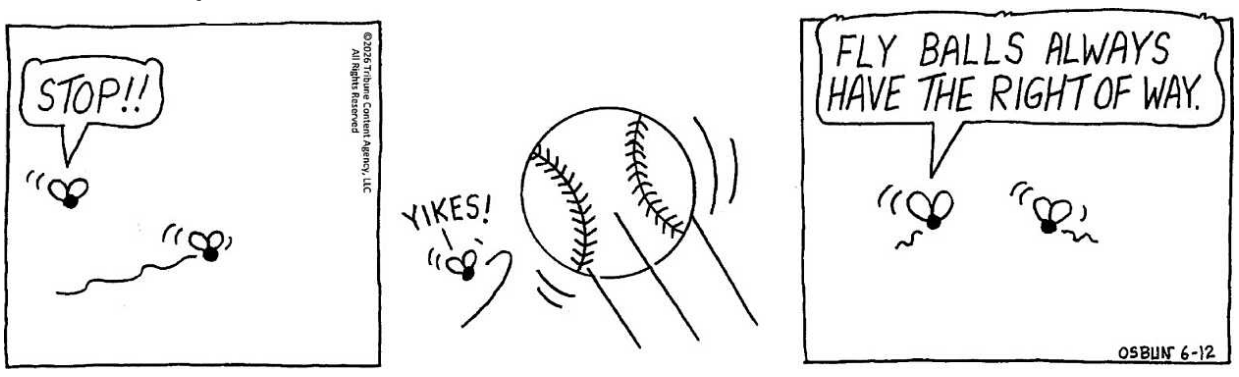
Pickles By Brian Crane

I DON'T REALLY THINK IN TERMS OF WORDS...
I THINK IN TERMS OF THINGS I CAN SEE IN MY MIND.
RIGHT NOW I CAN SEE YOU RUNNING AND SCREAMING...
...WHEN YOU NOTICE THAT BIG SPIDER DANGLING OVER YOUR HEAD.
6/12

Dick Tracy By Charles Ettinger and Mike Curtis


I'VE USED CUTOUTS, SAVE FOR YOU TWO AND MUMBLES.
GUEST WRITER: ERIC COSTELLO
"AND, HEH, MUMBLES WON'T BE TALKING."
AND SOON, YOU TWO WON'T BE ABLE TO.
CHARLES ETTINGER
MIKE CURTIS

Animal Crackers By Mike Osbun



Prickly City By Marshall Ramsey

IF ELECTED, I WILL SUE AN AGENCY I CONTROL, SETTLE FOR 1.8 BILLION CARROTS AND GIVE THEM TO THE JACKRABBITS WHO SUPPORT ME.
KEVIN
IT'S THE ART OF THE STEAL.
MARSHALL RAMSEY
6/12 PRICKLYCITY@GMAIL.COM

Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker

YOU KNOW, FOUR IS THE ONLY NUMBER WHOSE NAME HAS THE SAME NUMBER OF LETTERS AS THE NUMBER ITSELF.
dustincomics.com
KELLY and PARKER
©2026 Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.
6-12
WHAT?

For Better or for Worse By Lynn Johnston

IT'S A REAL COINCIDENCE YOU SHOWED UP TODAY, DOC. I'VE GOT A LITTLE CAR HERE THAT A GUY WANTS ME TO SELL FOR HIM.
06-12 www.fborfw.com
SHE RUNS, GOOD BODY CONDITION, GOOD MOTOR..
HOW ARE YOU DOING, TRACEY?
© 2026 Lynn Johnston Productions Inc.
OK, LIZ-IT'S JUST THAT NOW THAT WE HAVE THE BABY, I CAN'T GET ANYTHING DONE, AND IT'S DRIVING ME NUTS!
WHAT ABOUT HIRING A SITTER?
Dist. By Andrews McMeel Syndication
YOU KNOW - I WAS HOPING YOU'D ASK !!!
LYNN

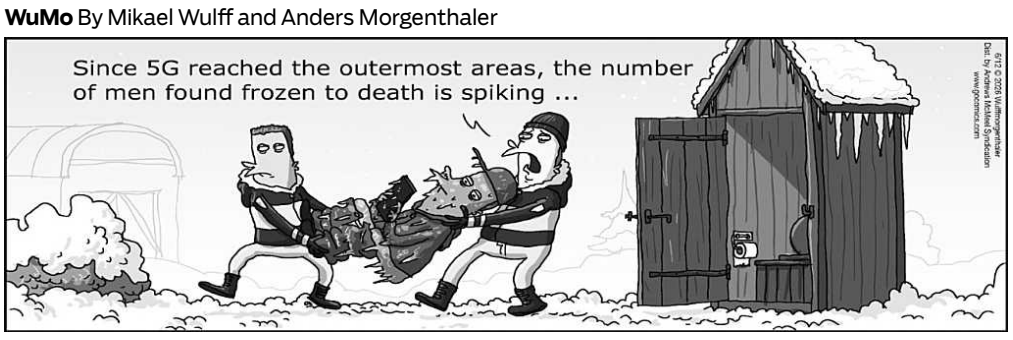
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall

SO, HOW'S YOUR SUMMER GOING SO FAR, ALEXANDER?
OH, IT'S GREAT!
© 2026 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World Rights reserved
IT ALWAYS FEELS NICE NOT TO HAVE TO THINK ABOUT SCHOOL OR CARE ABOUT HOMEWORK
6-12
WHICH IS PRETTY MUCH LIKE THE REST OF THE YEAR, BUT WITHOUT THE GUILT!
www.Blondie.com
YOUNG MARSHALL

Hägar the Horrible By Chris Browne

Mutts By Patrick McDonnell

WuMo By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler


Since 5G reached the outermost areas, the number of men found frozen to death is spiking ...
6/12 © 2026 Wulffmorgenthaler
Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
www.gocomics.com

Sherman's Lagoon By Jim Toomey

SO, GIANT CLAM, DO YOU EVER PASS ALONG ALL THAT WISDOM YOU'VE GAINED THROUGH THE YEARS?
www.shermanslagoon.com
WHAT? LIKE, FOR FREE?
YEAH.
WELL, I AM SITTING ON A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE.
©2026 Jim Toomey Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
6-12
AND A SEA CUCUMBER.
HEY, JEFF.
#@$%!

Brewster Rockit: Space Guy! By Tim Rickard

I SUBMITTED A MANUSCRIPT TO A PUBLISHER, BUT GOT A REJECTION LETTER.
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06/12
A WRITER ONCE SAVED HIS REJECTION SLIPS TO MOTIVATE HIMSELF, AMASSING DOZENS! AND THEN ... IT ALL PAID OFF!
www.gocomics.com/brewsterrockit
brewrockit@yahoo.com
HE GOT PUBLISHED?
HE WAS ABLE TO BURN THEM TO STAY WARM.

Broom-Hilda By Russell Myers

I GOT THIS AT A GARAGE SALE FOR ONLY A DOLLAR.
WHAT IS IT?
© 2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved
RUSSELL MYERS 6/12
SOME PEOPLE LIVE TO SUCK THE JOY OUT OF OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES.

Trivia Bits

Geppetto's cat in "Pinocchio" had what operatic name?

A) Don Giovanni
B) Figaro
C) Pagliacci
D) Rigoletto

Thursday's answer: Columbus is Ohio's capital and its largest city by population.

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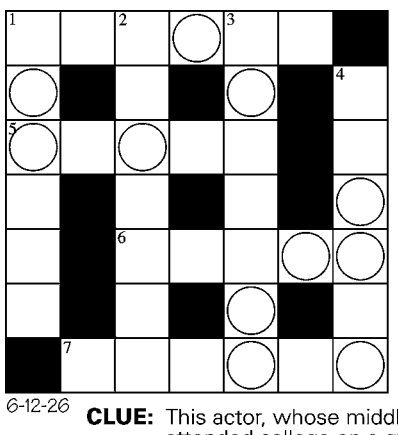
Jumble Crossword



ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Pulled	GEGTDU
5. ___ detector	DRRAA
6. Type in	NTERE
7. Inner self	PYCEHS

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Flourish	HVEITR
2. Female deity	DSGSDEO
3. Inconsistent	RTIEACR
4. Accuse formally	CGHAER

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

6-12-26

CLUE: This actor, whose middle name is Tiffany, attended college on a gymnastics scholarship.

BONUS

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ANSWERS: 1A-Tugged 5A-Radar 6A-Enter 7A-Psyche 1D-Thrive 2D-Goddess 3D-Erratic 4D-Change B-Richard Gere

By David L. Hoyt.

Sudoku 1234

6/12

4	9		5					1
						3	4	
					3			
			9		5			8
	6	1		2		7		
2			1		8			3
			2					
		6						
5					1		9	2

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

5	6	9	4	7	1	3	2	8
8	3	4	2	9	6	7	1	5
2	7	1	3	8	5	9	4	6
1	2	8	6	3	9	5	7	4
4	5	6	1	2	7	8	9	3
3	9	7	8	5	4	1	6	2
9	1	2	5	4	3	6	8	7
6	4	5	7	1	8	2	3	9
7	8	3	9	6	2	4	5	1

Thursday's solutions

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Jumble

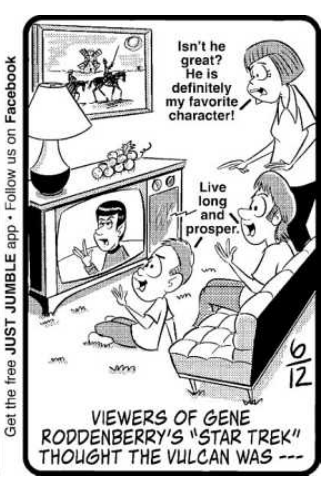
Unscramble the four Jumbles, one letter per square, to form four words. Then arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by this cartoon.

PTRAA

CLVAO

CTEKAL

RSASEU


Isn't he great? He is definitely my favorite character!
Live long and prosper.
6/12
VIEWERS OF GENE RODDENBERRY'S "STAR TREK" THOUGHT THE VULCAN WAS ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Answer here

" " "

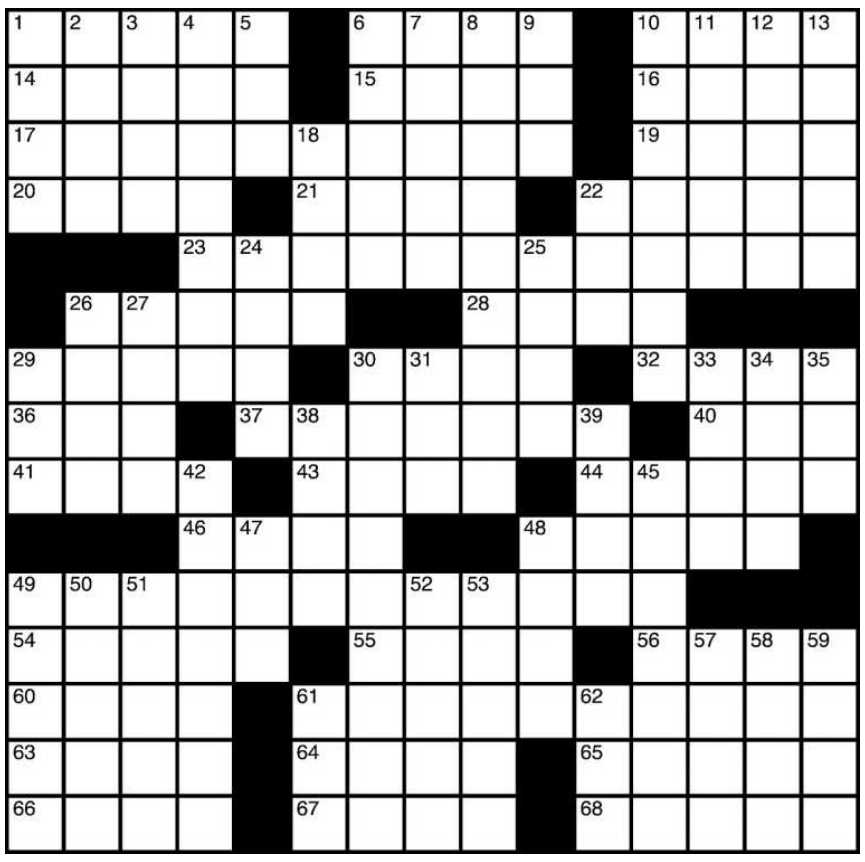
Thursday's answers

Jumbles: MOTTO PANDA UNEASY REFUSE
Answer: When it came to training for races, the sprinter was — STEADFAST

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved. PlayJumble.com

Crossword

6/12



Across

1 Easter month, often
6 Apple resource with curated guides
10 Bygone handhelds, for short
14 Lift a finger?
15 Landed
16 Reply to "I'm sure they'll be fine without you," perhaps
17 Soap that's easy to conceal?
19 Low-carb diet
20 Hunk
21 Setting of the graphic novel "Persepolis"
22 Arrive
23 Soap that could use a friend?
26 Estimate from a contractor
28 "Me too"
29 Relish
30 Big name in gaming monitors
32 Dec. holiday
36 Goal
37 Soap that's super popular?
40 Computer file suffix
41 School gps.
43 Root vegetable related to Swiss chard
44 SF NFLer
46 Astronomical light show
48 Birthplace of K-pop
49 Soap that's falling apart?
54 Signs on for another tour
55 Pop diva Celine
56 American white __: Gulf Coast bird
60 Org. with sponsored Medicare plans
61 Soap that's perfect for adding color to a shower routine?
63 Pop sensation
64 Have too little of
65 Bowie's role in "The Prestige"
66 Where Anheuser-Busch is BUD
67 Some specialist MDs
68 Autumn bloom

Thursday's solution

Down

1 Starters, casually
2 Combine
3 Costa __
4 Test pattern?
5 5G precursor
6 Spanish parent
7 Cover name
8 Support for a key player?
9 Mo. town
10 Progress tracker for one trying to "catch 'em all"
11 Caused by
12 When the fate of Ophelia is revealed
13 Sparkled
18 Prong
22 Jewel
24 Letters of equivocation
25 Harry's accomplice in "Home Alone"
26 Walk out
27 Home of the NCAA's Black Knights
29 Word with age or wage
30 Took off right after dinner
31 Rock & Roll HoF city
33 Grubhub link
34 Rink leap
35 Title for a knight in Westeros
38 Short "Duh"
39 Over again
42 Maker of Trop-a-Rocka tea
45 Charges, in a way
47 Gives a thumbs-up
48 Performed in a choir
49 Scarecrow's desire
50 Good to go
51 Money in Monaco
52 SF MLBer
53 Taboos
57 One-up
58 Tropical spot
59 Movie lead
61 Be in arrears
62 GPS prediction

By Emma Oxford. Edited by Patti Varol. © 2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at ***PlayJumble.com***

Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

			5				1	
4	8						7	
		1	6	2		5		
6			3					
		2		1		9		
					6			2
		6		8	9	7		
9	2						4	3
					1			

Level 1 **2** 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit from 1 to 9. For strategies on solving Sudoku, visit ***sudoku.org.uk.***

8	6	9	1	3	2	7	4	5
3	4	1	5	9	7	8	2	6
5	2	7	6	8	4	6	3	1
2	5	3	6	7	6	4	1	8
7	6	6	4	1	8	2	5	3
1	8	4	2	5	3	6	7	6
4	3	5	8	2	6	1	6	7
6	7	2	3	6	1	5	8	4
9	1	8	7	4	5	3	6	2

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8/27/22

WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: Misleading animal names

1273

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

G B E A R C A T W K H U G Z D C W C
L U P R G F N O B S Z I Q O D I E R
O A I R G F A D I U P W C U R E U A
R Q D N A H R F L A T P D Q A C S Y
E F J Y E I T V E A P T P F G V E F
Y V D T B A R S T N A J E W O K A I
R H P T C U P I L Q R A G R N S C S
M D N P M J G I E M Y K V O F C O H
H A R P S E A L G D N E M G L L W S
P E A N U T W O R M O R K F Y U Y H
H S N T H A M S U S E G I L E F S E
O E T S I M W G C D W S N Y A I E L
G A L S T A R F I S H E G I F R A L
F H I G R E D P A N D A C N V E H F
I O O F O X S H A R K L O G J F A I
S R N M O R A Y E E L I B F M L R S
H S E A D R A G O N L O R O S Y E H
S E A R O B I N D X Q N A X A P T F

ANTBIRD
ANTLION
BEARCAT
BUTTERFLY
CATFISH
CRAYFISH
DRAGONFLY
FIREFLY
FLYING FOX
FOX SHARK
GUINEA PIG
HARP SEAL
HOGFISH
KING COBRA
LADYBUG
LIONFISH
MORAY EEL
PEANUT WORM
PRAIRIE DOG
RED PANDA
SEA COW
SEA DRAGON
SEA HARE
SEA HORSE
SEA LION
SEA PIG
SEA ROBIN
SHELLFISH
SPIDER MONKEY
STARFISH

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BOGGLE

Boggle® BrainBusters™ BUPH WOIS GOKE AGLM

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

S	C	K	R
R	I	O	E
L	T	M	R
S	P	A	F

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE
- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 6 points
- 8 letters = 10 points
- 9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
- 151+ = Champ
- 101-150 = Expert
- 61-100 = Pro
- 31-60 = Gamer
- 21-30 = Rookie
- 11-20 = Amateur
- 0-10 = Try again

Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FIVE WORDS RELATED TO BOWLING in the grid of letters.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

SCORE FRAME SPARE SPLIT STRIKE

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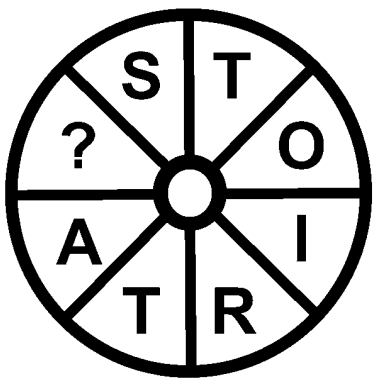
10-2-24

www.bogglebrainbusters.com

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

PATRIOTS

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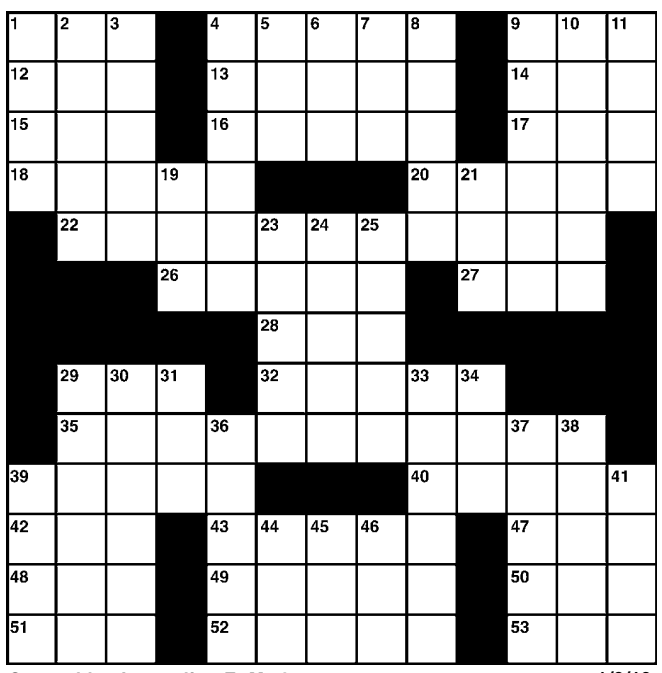
8/15

TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 1/6/19

ACROSS
1 "__ My Children"
4 Daytime serials
9 "Better __ Ted"
12 "__ to Me"; Tim Roth series
13 Popular sitcom geek
14 Suffix for event or habit
15 So. state
16 "Matty's Funnies with __ and Cecil"; cartoon series of old
17 Mailman's beat: abbr.
18 One of the Obamas
20 Shed crocodile tears
22 Actor on "Salvation"
26 Group of craftsmen or merchants
27 Home for the Loudons on "Newhart"
28 Do a lawn chore
29 "__. Bilko"; Steve Martin movie
32 Climbing plants
35 Actress on "The Good Place"
39 1956 Liz Taylor/Rock Hudson film
40 Actor Tom __
42 Actress/director Ullmann
43 Actress Tamblyn
47 "Norma __"; Sally Field movie
48 180 degrees from WSW
49 "In the __ of the Sea"; Chris Hemsworth film
50 Tumor suffix
51 Actor Marshall and others
52 Freeway divisions
53 Long-haired ox

DOWN
1 "Woe is me!"
2 Purple shade
3 Dog restraint
4 Outback or Forester
5 Miner's discovery
6 Letters on a wanted poster
7 Animal enclosure
8 More devious
9 "__ Own"; Ralph Louis Harris sitcom
10 Make more plump
11 Escape
19 Broom Hilda, for one
21 Miss Piggy's word for herself
23 "The sky's the __!"
24 "__ Lucy"
25 Moses or Meese
29 Winter Olympics sport
30 Actor Peter __
31 The __ Man; Oz visitor
33 Film critic Roger & his kin
34 Stitch
36 "60 Minutes" jounalist Lesley
37 Jim Croce's "Bad, Bad __ Brown"
38 Peruvian pack animal
39 Delight
41 Faucet problem
44 "Give __ Sailor"; Betty Grable/Bob Hope film
45 Prohibit
46 Prior to

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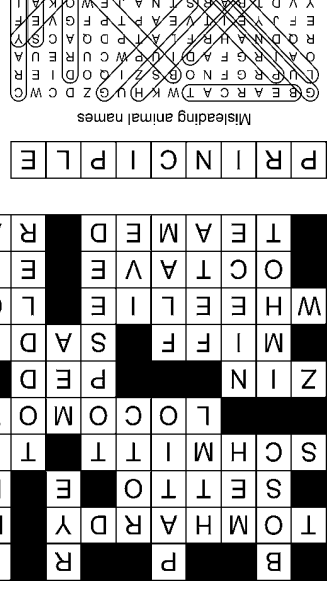
1/6/19



Misleading animal names

JUMBLE

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NTIEG

GDEAA

DEEGNR

MOSEKR

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

I'm excited about bringing the Cicely and Granada companies together.
CICADA INC.
Our new company will have everyone buzzing.
AFTER THEY COMBINED THEIR BUSINESSES, A NEW COMPANY ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

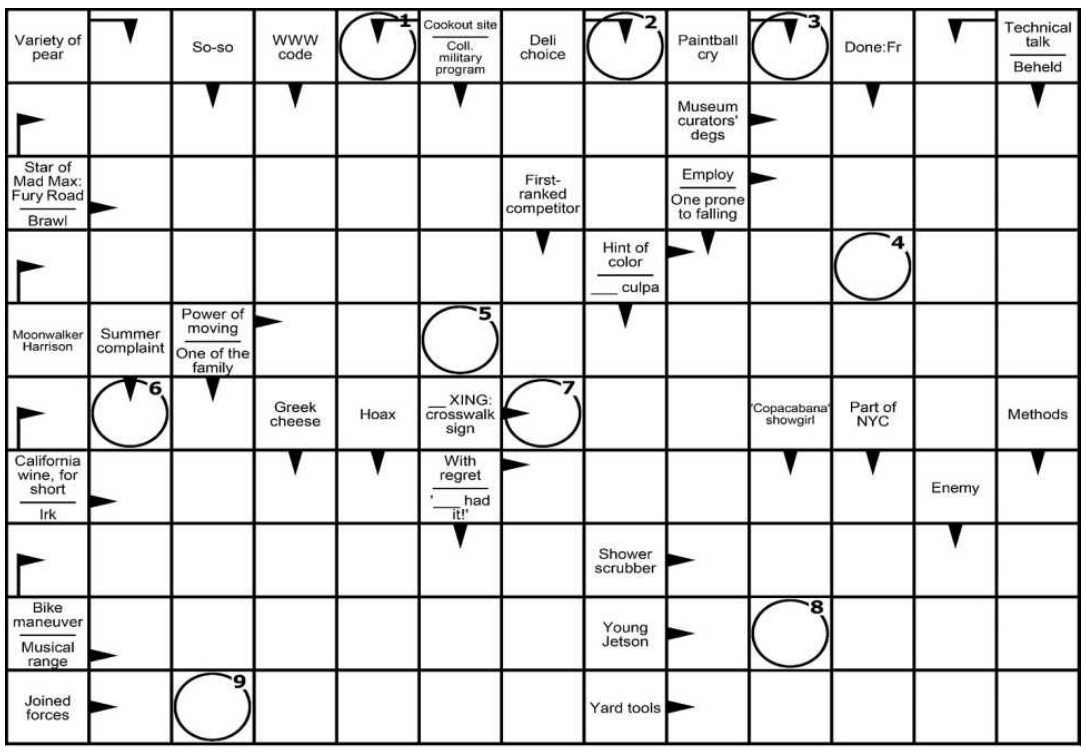
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print the answer here: _____

Jumbles: TINGE ADAGE GENDER SMOKER
Answer: After they combined their businesses, a new company — EMERGED

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.



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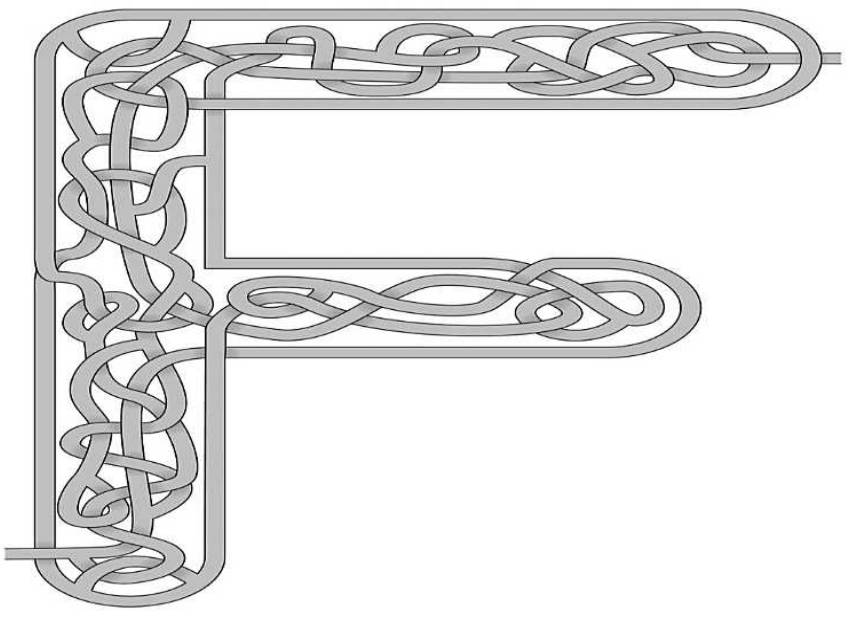
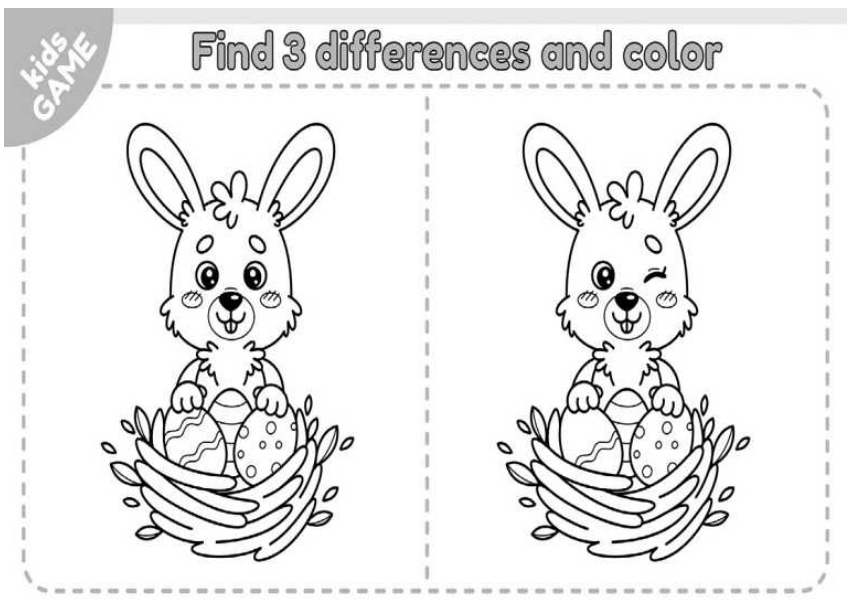
7/8/23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

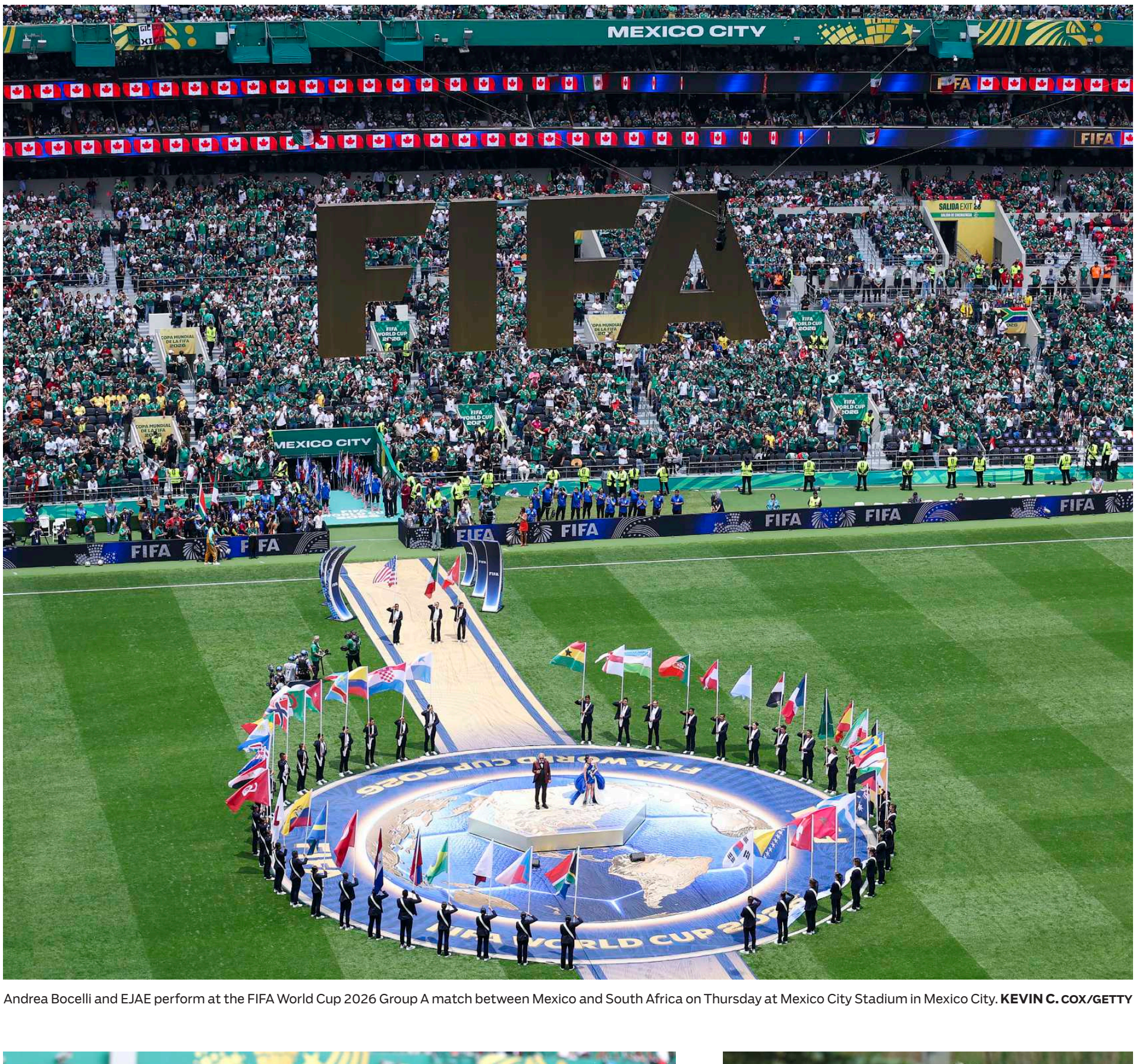
KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



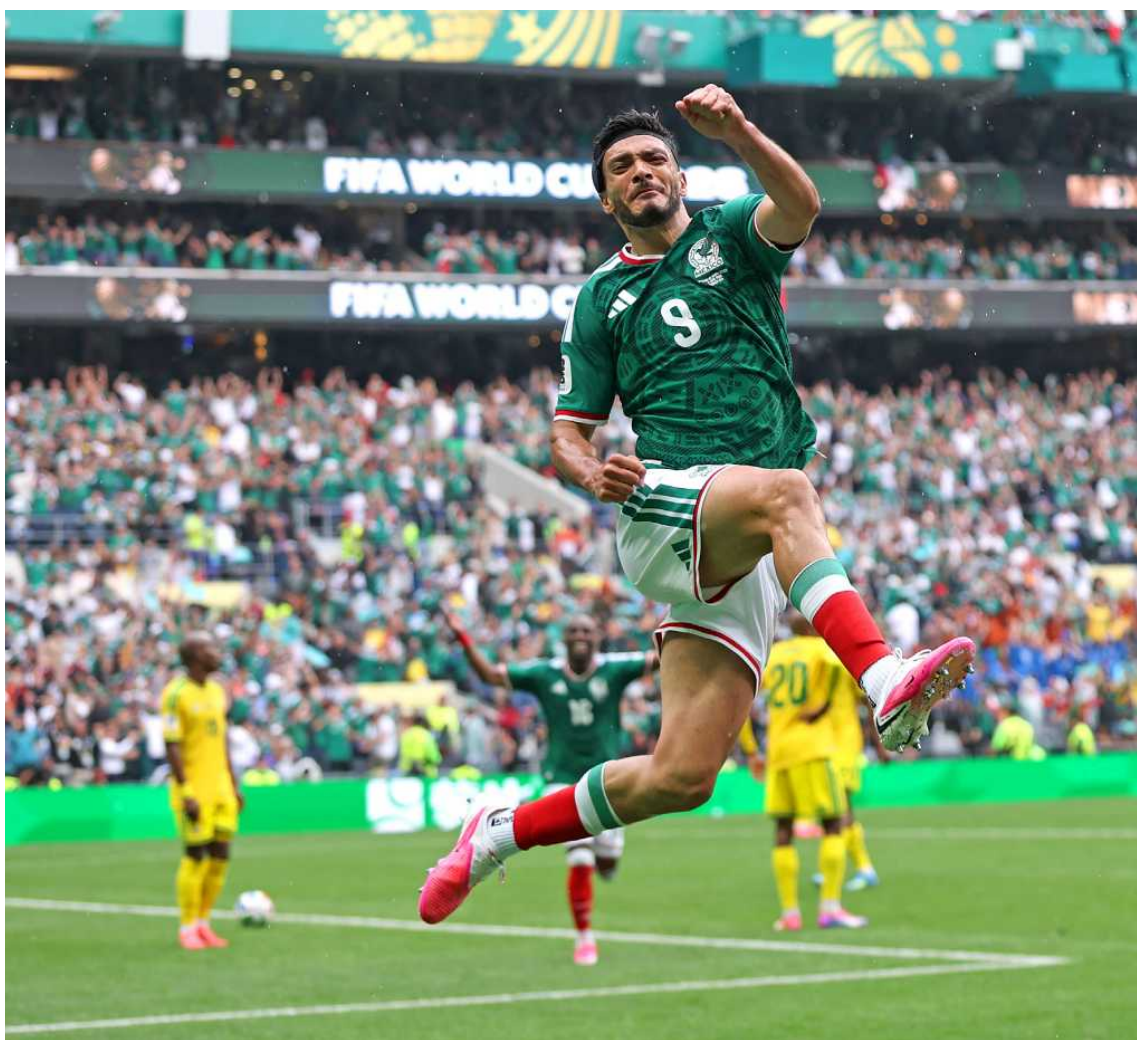


South Africa's Khuliso Mudau tries to tackle Mexico's Brian Gutierrez during the World Cup Group A soccer match on Thursday in Mexico City. **NATACHA PISARENKO/AP**

Mexico fans in San Francisco celebrate their team's first goal against South Africa as they watch a public viewing of their team's opening victory against South Africa. **EUGENE HOSHIKO/AP**



Andrea Bocelli and EJAE perform at the FIFA World Cup 2026 Group A match between Mexico and South Africa on Thursday at Mexico City Stadium in Mexico City. **KEVIN C. COX/GETTY**



Raul Jimenez of Mexico celebrates scoring his team's second goal during Thursday's match. **CARL RECINE/GETTY**

Canada goalkeeper Dayne St. Clair works out during a training session Thursday on the eve of the team's World Cup match against Bosnia in Toronto. **STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH/AP**